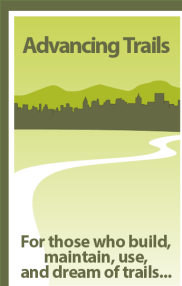




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**American
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January 2016 e-Newsletter

Advancing trails for those who build, maintain, use, and dream of trails...

WHAT'S HOT

January 28 webinar: "Why Resolve Conflict When You Can Prevent It?"

Join American Trails on January 28 as we welcome Karen Umphress and Russ Ehnes with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), as well as Mark Himmel with Back Country Horsemen of Montana as they present "Why Resolve Conflict When You Can Prevent It?"

During this webinar, the presenters will explore the ways in which most conflicts can be avoided before they ever start. The presentation will focus on motorized and nonmotorized trail use conflicts, but the principles can be applied to any type of trail conflict. [Learn more and REGISTER for this webinar...](#)

Stay tuned for our upcoming webinars:

- **February 25:** "Building Capacity with Volunteers - Essential Building Blocks of a Successful Program"
 - [Learn more and REGISTER for this webinar...](#)
- **March 24:** "Trails for Heroes - Healing our Military Veterans"
 - [Learn more and REGISTER for this webinar...](#)

Our webinars are eligible for CEUs that we offer through the [Texas Recreation and Park Society](#) (TRAPS), an authorized independent CEU provider through IACET ([International Association for Continuing Education and Training](#)). Our 75-minute webinars are worth 0.10 CEUs and are available for an additional \$20 fee. [Learn more](#) about CEUs and how to sponsor or support a webinar as well.

View our current [Advancing Trails Webinar Series](#) schedule including a list of all of our past webinars and recordings available for purchase or for free!

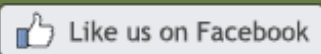
Looking for presenters for Advancing Trails Webinar Series

Recreational Trails Program

Search over 20,370 trail projects

RTP Database online

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON TRAIL NEWS WITH AMERICAN TRAILS:



NEWS

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Call for presenters! American Trails is looking for presenters to be considered to serve on a panel in our [Advancing Trails Webinar Series](#) for 2016. Do you have a great success story to tell and have lessons to share from it? Are you an expert in any of the following areas or know of someone?

Topics of interest include:

- Trail towns and community engagement
- Land acquisition, protection, and access
- Engaging millennials (youth and diversity)
- Innovative funding models for trails
- Mobile applications for trail wayfinding/access
- Climate change and trails
- Successful "Crowdfunding" campaigns

Please email Candace Mitchell, Webinar Coordinator, at candace@americantrails.org.

Winners announced for National Recreation Trails Photo Contest

American Trails sponsors the annual Photo Contest for National Recreation Trails (NRT). In celebration of these great trails, American Trails presents awards of varied types of trails from across America to highlight the diversity of NRTs, from backcountry pathways to urban greenways. You can view the winners in each category, as well as all 139 entries for 2015. [Visit the NRT photo contest galleries...](#)

National Geographic launches yearlong exploration on the power of parks

"Today, parks are more critical than ever to ensure the health and sustainability of our planet," says Chris Johns, Chief Content Officer, National Geographic Society. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service, National Geographic has launched a yearlong exploration on the power of parks. The exploration will include a web portal dedicated to learning how to preserve the nation's wilderness with maps and tips from experts, videos, photo galleries, educational resources, and a guide to authentic and meaningful travel experiences. [Read more...](#)

NEWS

Redding bridge featured in *New York Times*

The Sundial Bridge, a popular recreation destination located near the American Trails office in Northern California, was recently featured on the front of the *New York Times*. The article was written as a tribute to Ryan Hall, an Olympic marathon athlete from Redding, who announced his retirement in early January. Hall spent a majority of his training on the extensive trail network in Northern California, including the Sacramento River Trail that connects with the Sundial Bridge. [Read more...](#)

FEATURES

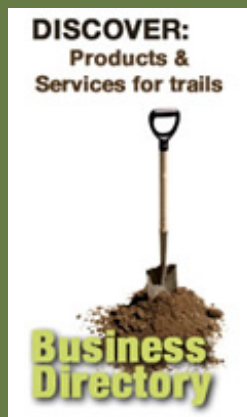
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2017 ITS location announcement among top things to happen to Dayton in 2015

The announcement of Dayton, Ohio being chosen to host the **2017** International Trails Symposium was one of "Six of the greatest things that happened to Dayton in 2015," according to Dayton.com. The Symposium will be held in Dayton, Ohio May 7-20, **2017**. Dayton was selected to host the International Trails Symposium "because of the partnerships and variety involved in southwest Ohio's trail system," according to Candace Mitchell, Communication Specialist for American Trails. [Read more...](#)

Clean Trails organization builds community with innovative Clean Box Project

"What if everyone picked up just one piece of litter?" Clean Trails, a nonprofit organization and nationwide community, seeks to create trash free trails while also building community with the Clean Box Project. The project's goal is to supply six trails in ten metropolitan areas with Clean Trail boxes led by volunteer Clean Trail Ambassadors. These volunteers will encourage trail users to pick up trash by organizing awareness events and promoting the usage of the trail boxes. [Read more...](#)

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado restore flood and fire-damaged trails

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), a statewide volunteer stewardship organization, continues to help Colorado recover from the fires and flood that affected 230 miles of trails in 2012. Last year, VOC mobilized thousands of volunteers to contribute 12,480 hours of service to recovery efforts in various regions throughout Colorado. With the help of VOC, visitors and Colorado residents are able to enjoy newly reopened trails leading to Colorado's vast and majestic outdoor scenery. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Cincinnati seeks connectivity with 42-mile urban trail loop plan

Tri-State Trails, along with Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek, the City of Cincinnati, and other organizations, have developed the Cincinnati Connects plan to bring enhanced mobility and connectivity to all citizens. The proposed trail will pass through at least 32 neighborhoods and between Mill Creek and many previously existing trails. The plan represents the region's first in-depth analysis for connecting existing and planned trails together into their most beneficial alignments - in this case, urban loop trails. [Read more and see photos...](#)

League of American Bicyclists reaches 1,090 Bicycle Friendly Businesses

The League of American Bicyclists has been working closely with businesses across the nation for the past seven years to create bicycle-friendly cities. The Bicycle Friendly America program now has

[Greenway problems and solutions: The Genesee Riverway Trail](#)

[Managing historic trails in Hawaii](#)

[Preview of trail training opportunities for 2016](#)



Quick Links

Need Trails Training? Visit www.TrailsTraining.net.

[Find Products and Services for Trails.](#)

Join American Trails - one of the World's most comprehensive online go-to sources for planning, designing, building, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blueways ~ [Join Now!](#)



1,090 businesses in 49 states designated as Bicycle Friendly Businesses (BFBs). Businesses create inviting places to bike by installing bike shelters, creating bike share programs, and more to be recognized as a BFB. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Yosemite to rename many iconic locations

Many popular locations in Yosemite will be renamed as part of an ongoing legal dispute with a concessionaire that has trademarked several names. Some of the location names that will be changed are the Awhahnee Hotel, Yosemite Lodge, and Badger Pass Ski Area. The park will remain open but will see changes to the names of several locations by March 1, 2016. [Read more...](#)

"Preschool without walls" aims to increase outdoor recreation

More schools are turning to an emphasis on outdoor education to counter the increase of technology in children's lives. Children who attend these schools spend most of their day outside learning through exploring and observing nature. This increase in outdoor education has grown increasingly over the last several years, while also producing criticism from some education professionals. [Read more and see photos...](#)

FEATURES

Roger Bell reflects on 20 years with American Trails

Looking back on 20 years of serving on the board of American Trails, Roger Bell, Honorary Chair of the Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program, reflects on his time serving in various leadership roles. He attended 11 International Trails Symposia and has been an advocate for American Trails' efforts to get youth involved in the outdoors. His passion for the Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program has impacted emerging trail leaders around the world. [Read more...](#)

Featured National Recreation Trail: Guadalupe River Trail, California

The Guadalupe River Trail features some of San Jose's finest and largest pieces of public art, including a 9,600-pound steel mammoth. This piece of art, installed in 2015, proudly stands along the popular Guadalupe River Trail, a designated National Recreation Trail. The trail currently links downtown San Jose to the San Francisco Bay, a distance of seven miles, with access to many of Silicon Valley's major employers, housing, and attractions. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Featured Recreational Trails Program-funded project: Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway, Michigan

Better Skills for Better Trails

- Accessibility
- Management
- Planning
- Trail Building
- Backcountry Trails
- Urban Trails

TrailsTraining.net
For Professionals & Volunteers

The Ocqueoc Falls Bicentennial Pathway in Michigan consists of four loops of scenic trails ranging from 2.85 miles to 6 miles long. Part of the trail system connects with the Ocqueoc Falls, one of the nation's first truly universally accessible waterfalls. The newly renovated trail to the waterfall features accessible water ramps that parallel the wooden embankment, along with several other accessible routes. The Michigan Parks and Recreation Division worked with the Accessibility Advisory Council of the Department of Natural Resources with grants from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program and other organizations to make the Falls area available to people of all ages and abilities. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Featured Online Business Directory advertiser: Rhino Marking & Protection Systems

Rhino Marking & Protection Systems offers a variety of posts, signs, and markers to fit each and every type of trail. Manufacturer of the Rhino TriView™ post, the highly visible triangular design ensures that your message can be seen from any direction. Durable and flexible, unlike flat posts it withstands repeated vehicle impacts from any direction and still returns to its original upright position. [Learn more about Rhino in the American Trails Online Business Directory...](#)



Enjoy some of the world's best hikes on these 20 dream trails

National Geographic asked 20 outdoor activists, from trail runners to CEOs about their dream trails. From a trail that runs through France, Italy, and Switzerland, to a wild and diverse trail in Australia, their picks display a wide array of scenery from across the world. Lace up your hiking shoes and venture out on these breathtaking trails! [Read more and see photos...](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Germany unveils first section of a 62-mile bicycle superhighway

Germany recently opened the first 3 miles of a 62-mile bicycle-only highway in an effort to decrease car traffic from major cities. The superhighway will span across ten different cities and four universities, estimated to take 50,000 cars off the road each day. The pathway will run primarily along disused railroad tracks and will act similarly to driving a car on an interstate. [Read more...](#)

Bermuda Railway Trail opens newly restored footbridge

The Bermuda Railway Trail continued its restoration efforts with the construction of a new footbridge in November of 2015. The trail was first built in 1984, 40 years after the Bermuda Railway closed, and

offers tourists and residents an 18-mile-long trail winding through Bermuda's diverse and beautiful scenery. With the new installations, almost all of the old right-of-way is open for walking, cycling, and even roller blading. [Read more...](#)

Visit some of the best bike trail centers in England

England is home to many mountain bike trail centers with a wide range of difficulty to suit every level of rider. This list of the five top trails, according to redbull.com, includes manmade structures with more natural routes displaying England's scenic views. Many centers also include facilities to wash your bike and enjoy tea and cake before or after hitting the trails. [Read more...](#)

TRAINING & RESOURCES

Archived webinar: "The Role of Trails in Healthy Community Design," by Mark Fenton

A recording of the webinar, "The Role of Trails in Healthy Community Design," hosted by American Trails, is available in the American Trails Online Store. It was presented December 3 by Mark Fenton, a transportation, planning, and public health consultant, author, PBS television host, and active transportation advocate; with an introduction by Bob Searns, past Chair of American Trails and Owner of The Greenway Team." [Read more and purchase archived webinars...](#)

Best Practices: Speed limit signs on trails

Speed limit signs on trails serve as reminders to bicyclists to limit their speed, especially when passing other trail users. The signs can range from a standard highway speed limit sign to stencils on walls and trail pavement. These signs make it possible for law enforcement personnel to enforce trail safety on multi-use trails. [Read more and see photos in the American Trails Cool Trail Solutions Photo Gallery...](#)

2015 Massachusetts Trails Conference presentations now available

The Massachusetts Trails Conference took place in November 2015 and was centered on the theme, "Sustainable Trails for a Sustainable Future." The presentations featured keynote speaker Woody Keen, owner of Trail Wisdom LLC, a trail consulting firm primarily focused on education and designing and building sustainable trails. Other presentations included: "Different Voices: Connecting People & Place," "Practical Considerations in the Design and Construction of Accessible Trails," "Organizing, Engaging, and Sustaining Volunteers," and more. [Read more and download presentations...](#)

Rail-with-trail feasibility study

The RJ Corman Versailles Line is a short-line track that begins near downtown Lexington, Kentucky and heads west toward Versailles, nearly 15 miles in length. This study examines the approximate 9.5-mile section from downtown Lexington to Pisgah Pike, just inside Woodford County for the development of a rail-with-trail project where the rail line remains active and the trail is adjacent to the tracks. [Download presentation \(pdf 6.1 mb\)...](#)

Greenway problems and solutions: The Genesee Riverway Trail

The Genesee River has long been a main attraction for the City of Rochester, New York. For years, the city has envisioned a multi-use trail adjacent to the river, but many challenges kept the project from moving ahead, including active railroads, wetlands, steep slopes, and abandoned industrial facilities. A key solution was adding an 86-span, 3,572-foot-long bridge that spans the most difficult section. [Download presentation \(ppt 9.4 mb\)...](#)

Managing historic trails in Hawaii

A Comprehensive Management Plan for Hawaii's Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail is available. The trail system has been in continuous use since the arrival of the first Polynesians. The 168-page plan includes a wealth of photographs and offers strategies for protection of natural and cultural resources, trail use, and facility development. [Download the Ala Kahakai Trail Management Plan \(pdf 9.8 mb\)...](#)

Early 2016 trail training opportunities

Current training opportunities for trail skills across the country. [See the Online Trails Training Calendar for details...](#)

January 28 - Online webinar hosted by American Trails
* **Webinar: Why Resolve Conflict When You Can Prevent It?**
[**REGISTER TODAY**](#)

January 28 - Online webinar hosted by Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
* Webinar: Making the Case for Parks and Trails

January 29 - Deerfield Beach, FL
* Broward County Safe Streets Summit

January 31 - February 3 - Clearwater Beach, FL
* Active Living Research Conference

February 6-11 - Washington, DC
* Hike the Hill Conference

February 7-10 - Washington, DC
* The Corps Network's National Conference

February 8-9 - Denver, CO
* 2016 Colorado Bike Summit

February 12-13 - Dayton, OH

* The Adventure Summit

February 25 - Online webinar hosted by American Trails

* **Webinar: Building Capacity with Volunteers - Essential Building Blocks of a Successful Program** [REGISTER TODAY](#)

February 27 - Princeton, NJ

* New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit

March 5-11 - Knoxville, TN

* Professional TrailBuilders Association (PTBA) Sustainable Trails Conference

March 7-9 - Washington, DC

* National Bike Summit

March 24 - Online webinar hosted by American Trails

* **Webinar: Trails for Heroes - Healing our Military Veterans** [REGISTER TODAY](#)

Contact us with your scheduled training opportunities at nttp@americantrails.org.

JOIN THE AMERICAN TRAILS NETWORK

Join American Trails and receive a gift of an 18-ounce Klean Kanteen water bottle!

New [members](#) who join at the Trail Professional level or higher will **receive a gift of an 18-ounce stainless steel Klean Kanteen commemorative water bottle** celebrating American Trails!

Water bottles are also available for purchase in our [Online Store](#).



Working together - works! There is strength in numbers!

For over 27 years, [American Trails](#) has been a collective voice for a diverse coalition of enthusiasts, professionals, advocates, builders, land managers, 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, including our children.

American Trails is a tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are

tax-deductible.



QUICK LINKS

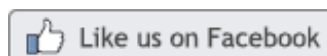
- Visit [American Trails "Supporting Trails" webpage](#) for alerts and legislation.
- **American Trails** - maintains *one of the world's most comprehensive online go-to sources for planning, designing, building, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blueways* at www.AmericanTrails.org.
- Read about great Recreational Trails Program-funded projects by visiting the Federal Highway Administration's [RTP Database website](#).
- Find products and services for trails in our [Online Business Directory](#).
- Visit our [Blog](#).
- Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!
- Learn about and find [National Recreation Trails \(NRT\)](#) near you today!
- I'm a [Pathways for Play](#) advocate. [Ask me why](#).
- The [Online Trails Training Calendar](#) connects you with webinars, courses, conferences, and trail-related training.
- Purchase books, maps, memberships, and webinars through the [American Trails Online Store](#).
- Need Trails Training? Visit www.TrailsTraining.net.
- [Cool Trail Solutions](#): View galleries of trail projects, enhancements, and facilities to give you ideas and see how others solved typical trails and greenways problems.
- If you appreciate the myriad of resources we provide on our website to help you do your work better, please help support American Trails ~ [by joining the American Trails Network today](#).

Trail Tracks is our monthly e-Newsletter with links to www.AmericanTrails.org *one of the world's most comprehensive online resources for planning, designing, building, funding, managing, and enhancing trails, greenways, and blueways*. We also bring you news from the halls of Congress, new studies and resources, interesting articles, events, training opportunities, and the latest in trail products and services. Check out the topics above for what's new in the trails world!

Send news and calendar items to trailhead@americantrails.org.

Advertising Opportunities:

American Trails offers cost-effective advertising opportunities for our Trail Tracks e-Newsletter, the American Trails Magazine, in our Business Directory, and on our website! Find out more [here](#).



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Header photo: Hidden Hollow Park in Sugar House neighborhood of Salt Lake City, Utah; photo by Stuart Macdonald