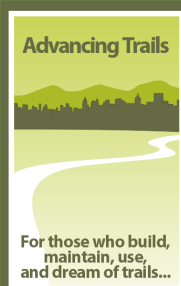




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Advancing trails for those who build, maintain, use, and dream of trails...

WHAT'S HOT

FREE WEBINARS: New benefit for American Trails members



If you are an American Trails member at the Trail Professional (\$75) level or higher, you can attend our webinars for FREE. This new member benefit will take effect with our June 2016 webinar and only applies for webinars during the same time that your membership is current/active. [Read more and become a member...](#)

Using technology, learn how to develop a healthy, vibrant trails community: June 23 American Trails webinar

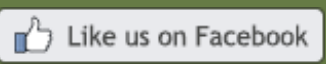
This webinar will explore [QCTrails.org](#), a free, user-friendly, interactive, and mobile-responsive website which serves as a comprehensive resource that highlights multi-purpose trails, parks, and side-paths in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. This webinar will feature the impact that a site like QCTrails.org can have on the health of a community for both residents and visitors. [Learn more and REGISTER for this](#)

Recreational Trails Program

Search over **20,370** trail projects

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Interested in hosting the 2019 International Trails Symposium?

We are looking to hold the 24th American Trails International Trails Symposium in the Spring of 2019. The deadline for proposals is September 15, 2016 and we anticipate making a decision by January 31, 2017. All of the details on what is requested of the host community and required in a proposal are outlined in the bid packet that is now available. [Read more and download the bid packet...](#)

New National Recreation Trails designated for 2016

On June 3, 2016, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced the designation of six local and State National Recreation Trails to the National Trails System. "By designating these new National Trails, we recognize the efforts of local communities to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by everyone," Jewell said. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Coalition for Recreational Trails Awards announced

The Coalition for Recreational Trails recognized 10 trail projects and a State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee as recipients of its 2016 Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards for outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. The Coalition presented these national awards, which honor Tom Petri, a former member of Congress from Wisconsin and longtime champion of the RTP, at a special Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 8, 2016 as part of the celebration of Great Outdoors Month®. [Read more and see photos of all the winning projects...](#)

June 30 deadline for RTCA Assistance Program applications

The National Park Service is accepting applications for its [Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#), which supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation [projects across the nation](#) to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities. [Read more...](#)

NEWS

U.S. Department of the Interior releases Economic Report

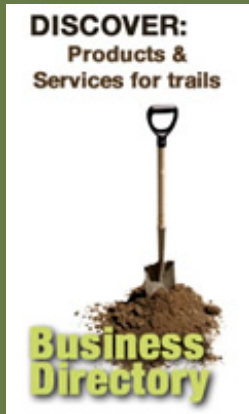
The U.S. Department of the Interior's Economic Report revealed that public lands made a \$300 billion impact in the economy for Fiscal Year 2015. Industries such as tourism, energy development, and recreation

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at national parks, wildlife refuges, and national monuments, as well as investments in wildlife conservation, water management, and renewable energy, contributed to the economy and supported 1.8 million jobs. [Read more...](#)

June proclaimed Great Outdoors Month®

For the seventh straight year, the President and all 50 governors have proclaimed June Great Outdoors Month®! These proclamations celebrate the economic, social, and healthful benefits of healthy, active outdoor fun in individual States and the country as a whole. [Read more...](#)

Interior Secretary Jewell speaks at Partners Outdoors 2016

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell delivered powerful keynote remarks during the Outdoor Recreation Leadership Summit at Partners Outdoors 2016. She outlined challenges facing outdoor recreation leaders, including the need to engage the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and invite an ever-changing American population to experience their public lands and waters. [Watch video of Secretary Jewell's keynote speech...](#)

Atlanta Regional Commission approves walking and biking plan

The Atlanta Regional Commission's board recently unanimously approved their new regional walking and bicycling plan - *Walk Bike Thrive!* The plan aims to improve the safety, mobility, and economic growth of the Atlanta, Georgia region. [Read more...](#)

First State-level study on bicycle and recreation trails planned for Wyoming

A new task force that will assess bicycling and recreation trails in Wyoming was created in Wyoming, thanks to a new law passed by Governor Matt Mead. The new law brought hope and optimism to many in Wyoming, including task force member Angela Emery. "I'm just so pleased the Legislature empowered the task force to talk about trails and their role in Wyoming's future," Emery said. [Read more...](#)

Vermont to fund 15 trail projects with Recreational Trail Program funds

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (VTFR) is planning a banner year for trails, thanks to \$586,764 of funding via the Recreational Trails Program. The funds will go towards maintaining and building public trails across Vermont. "We were able to fund some excellent and diverse projects all over the State. The health, economic, and social benefits of trails are well-documented and our department is proud to support these community-based efforts," VTFR Commissioner Michael Snyder said. [Read more...](#)

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FEATURES

Trails and the National Park Service Centennial

As the Director of the National Park Service Jon Jarvis has said many times, "The first century of the National Park Service was about bringing people to the parks, the second will be about bringing the parks to the people," and trails are absolutely key to this effort. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Autauga Creek Trail gives health and connections to a community

The 13-mile water trail on Autauga Creek in Prattville, Alabama is a haven for kayak and canoe enthusiasts, providing hours of entertainment and exercise for individuals and families alike. For Jennifer Griffin, a Montgomery, Alabama native, the challenging water trail serves as a partner in a personal journey towards increased fitness and a healthy lifestyle. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Featured National Recreation Trail: Backbone Trail, California

The Backbone Trail is California's newest NRT, traveling 67 miles through the Santa Monica Mountains of Southern California. The long-distance trail connects the largest natural and scenic parks as it travels along the spine of the Santa Monica Mountains. The trail is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikes, offering each outstanding views of the Pacific Ocean, chaparral-blanketed mountainsides, shady oak woodlands, rock formations, and cityscapes in the distance. [Read more and see photos for this NRT...](#)



Better Skills for Better Trails

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

TrailsTraining.net
For Professionals & Volunteers

Featured Recreational Trails Program project: Indiana Trails Advisory Board

The 2016 award for Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee was given to the State of Indiana, recognizing its very effective Trails Advisory Board. Since its founding in 1994, the Indiana Trails Advisory Board - also known as TAB - has always included both motorized and nonmotorized trail users as well as members representing groups with strong interest in trails. With funding through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, Indiana's TAB has completed numerous trail improvement projects. [Read more and see photos on this RTP award...](#)



Trail Advisory Board Members paddle Trail Creek

Featured Online Business Directory advertiser: Voss Signs

Voss Signs has been manufacturing custom and stock outdoor signage for over 45 years. They specialize in durable long lasting screen and digitally printed signage on a variety of materials, ranging from thin gauge aluminum through heavy gauge UV inhibitive plastic. Voss Signs continues to be a leader in various types and sizes of trail, entrance, and directional signage. [Learn more about Voss Signs in the American Trails Online Business Directory...](#)



INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM May 7-10, 2017 ~ Dayton, Ohio

American Trails hosts the next [International Trails Symposium](#) in Dayton, Ohio May 7-10, 2017!

For a second Symposium, we will feature the [Professional TrailBuilders Association \(PTBA\)](#) who will offer Sustainable Trails Workshops (including work on the Legacy Trail), provide a technical track, as well as showcase trail equipment that attendees can test out at the Outdoor Trade Show.

The Symposium addresses most aspects of trails, greenways, and blueways. Learn from dozens of educational sessions and mobile workshops, visit a state-of-the-art exhibit hall, and network with experts and enthusiasts from across the globe. The theme for the 2017 Symposium is "[Trails Take Flight: Connecting People, Places, and Possibilities.](#)"

Thank you to our Honorary Partners to date:

- [City of Dayton](#)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](#)
- [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Miami Conservancy District](#)
- [Miami County Park District](#)
- [Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission](#)
- [Greene County Parks & Trails](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)
- [U.S.D.A. Forest Service](#)
- [U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration](#)

Exhibit and sponsorship opportunities

25% exhibitor discount deadline June 30, 2016

The [Sponsorship and Exhibit Opportunities Packet](#) is available! Additional benefits include choosing your booth location in the order that your contract and payment is received (some exceptions apply) and adding your logo or name link on our [Meet Our Sponsors](#) page immediately. [Learn more...](#)

Theme for 2017 Symposium is *Trails Take Flight: Connecting People, Places, and Possibilities*

Because Dayton is where the Wright brothers developed their pioneering aviation designs, of course we think of that great advance in transportation that opened up the skies. But in many other ways, trails also evoke the idea of flight. Just as "flight" is more than just flying, trails are more than just getting people from place to place. [Read more...](#)

Cyclists gather for week-long bike tour near Dayton, Ohio

The 28th Annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure will bring an estimated 1,500 cyclists to trails surrounding Dayton, Ohio. The week-long bike tour will take participants along the Great Miami River Trail and many other trails, including stops at several historic locations and museums. [Read more...](#)

Five Rivers MetroParks trails to be mapped by Google Maps

Over the next few months, volunteers and Five Rivers Metroparks will be working to map out local hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, water, and paved trails for Google Maps. MetroParks is the first and only Ohio park system to participate in Google's Street View Trekker program. The trails will be available on Google Maps in six months to a year. [Read more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Increase in hiking leads to more rescues in Hong Kong

An increase in the popularity of hiking for Hong Kong residents has led to the amount of rescues more than doubling over the past year. The rise in rescues is not simply correlated to the rise in hikers, but due to walkers failing to take precautions before beginning their hike. [Read more and see photos...](#)

Explore Ontario's Park to Park Trail

The Park to Park Trail in Ontario is a 230-kilometer-long trail that connects two of Canada's iconic parks. The multi-use trail passes through numerous crystal lakes and winds through Canada's majestic outdoor scenery. [Read more and see photos...](#)

TRAINING & RESOURCES

U.S. Forest Service recreation accessibility guidelines

The U.S. Forest Service has developed several documents to enable accessibility improvements while recognizing and protecting the characteristics of the natural setting of outdoor recreation areas and trails. While focused on Federal policies, these guidelines will be helpful to trail planners and managers everywhere looking for current Best Practices on accessibility. [Read more and access a variety of accessible recreation resources...](#)

Cool Trail Solutions: Dogs on the trail - signs and regulations

For many people, a trip to a trail invariably means a walk with the dog. Signs along trails, as well as dog parks, allow dog owners to take their pet for a walk while understanding the rules of each specific trail. [Read more and see photos in the American Trails Cool Trail Solutions Photo Gallery...](#)

National Equestrian Trails Conference planned for Raleigh, North Carolina

The NETC 2016 Conference will address important educational issues that are being presented in both a hands-on environment as well as in general workshop sessions. The conference topics include up-to-date educational information and skills that will benefit both trail riders and trail maintenance groups, as well as public and private land managers. The conference is from July 8-10, 2016 in Raleigh, North Carolina. [Read more and register...](#)

Looking for presenters for 2017 Advancing Trails Webinar Series

Call for presenters! American Trails is looking for presenters to be considered to serve on a panel in our [Advancing Trails Webinar Series](#) for 2017. 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:

- Innovative funding models for trails
- Successful "Crowdfunding" campaigns
- Climate change and trails
- Or share your ideas!

Please send your concept and bio to Candace Mitchell, Webinar Coordinator, at candace@americantrails.org.

Upcoming Summer 2016 trail training opportunities

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

June 23 - Online webinar hosted by American Trails
*** Webinar: Leveraging Cross-Sector Partnerships and Technology to Develop a Healthy, Vibrant Trails Community**
[REGISTER TODAY](#)

June 26-29 - Houston, TX

* International Conference on Transportation and Development

July 8-10 - Raleigh, NC

* National Equestrian Trails Conference

July 10 -Online webinar hosted by Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

* Performance Measures to Evaluate New and Established Practices

July 25-29 - Portland, OR

* Comprehensive Bikeway Design 2.0

July 29-30 - Grand Junction, CO

* Old Spanish Trail Conference

August 1-3 - Dickinson, ND

* North Dakota State Trails Conference

August 14-17 - Anaheim, CA

* Institute of Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting and Exhibit

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

JOIN THE AMERICAN TRAILS NETWORK

Working together - works! There is strength in numbers!

For over 28 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 organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.



QUICK LINKS

- **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.
- SAVE THE DATE! Join us in Dayton, Ohio for the 23rd [International Trails Symposium](#) ~ May 7-10, 2017
- Visit [American Trails "Supporting Trails" webpage](#) for alerts and legislation.
- 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!
- 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](#).



Header photo: Lands End Trail at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco; photo by Stuart Macdonald