

# American Trails

For those who build, maintain, use, and dream of trails...

American Trails saves your trails, promotes trail access, and lets you know about trail opportunities. Get involved -- volunteer, learn, enjoy!

## Saving Trails Since 1988

July 2017 "Trail Tracks" eNewsletter

### What's Hot

#### A new era for American Trails: meet Mike Passo

Make Passo, recently appointed Executive Director of American Trails, introduces himself: "As your new director, I intend to focus on developing member benefits and engagement, increasing member input into AT's strategic planning, working with our partners to develop more robust trail training opportunities, and cultivating AT's engagement at every level." [Read more and see photos...](#)



#### Polaris ATV trails at the Summit Bechtel Reserve are full of thrilling twists and turns

*This year, NOHVCC is helping with the Boy Scouts National Jamboree. In a partnership with Polaris and the ATV Safety Institute (ASI), NOHVCC is helping to facilitate the training of nearly 1,000 Scouts and High Adventurers during the 10 days of the National Jamboree at the Bechtel Summit Reserve (BSR). The [original blog](#) and other articles can be found at [scoutingmagazine.org](http://scoutingmagazine.org).*



#### July 20 Webinar: Getting to "yes" on community trails

The next American Trails Webinar will be held July 20. A group of experts will present "Getting to 'Yes' on Greenway Trails in Your Community" to explore the social barriers to community support for trails. We will look at issues that cannot easily be engineered away and discuss ways to address fears about crime, loss of privacy, noise, and impact on property values. [Read more and register for the webinar...](#)



## Features



### Underground Railroad Bicycle Route: a ride through freedom

A new alternate ride on the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route takes cyclists to historical and cultural sites in the Dayton, Ohio region. The bulk of the route follows paved, off-road trails with much of it along the Great Miami River, which was used by slaves seeking freedom in the North. [Read more and see photos...](#)



### Colorado Fourteeners Initiative's Sustainable Trails Program

Colorado's iconic "Fourteeners," the 54 peaks exceeding 14,000 feet in elevation, draw a half-million hikers annually. During its 18-year existence, Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, a nonprofit partner of the U.S. Forest Service, has constructed 26 sustainable summit routes on 24 peaks to facilitate hiking access while protecting fragile alpine tundra ecosystems. [Read more and see photos...](#)



### Featured Recreational Trails Program project: Talisi Riverwalk, Alabama

The project expands the Riverwalk trail through Tallassee, AL following the water's edge of Lake Talisi. The Riverwalk, which includes a boardwalk and connecting bike lanes, has encouraged more physical activity and provided greater accessibility to meet the needs of the growing community. [Read more and see photos...](#)

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### Featured National Recreation Trail: Maah Daah Hey Trail, North Dakota

The Maah Daah Hey Trail is a 96-mile long recreational trail that winds its way through the rugged badlands and rolling prairies of western North Dakota. For mountain bike touring, there are six campgrounds on the trail, one at each trailhead and four others spaced about twenty miles apart. [Read more and see photos...](#)

## News

### The future of urban trails: routes for electric vehicles?

There are thousands of miles of recreational and commuter pathways nationwide, but few are listed as allowing electric vehicles. One that does is in Peachtree City, Georgia. The 100 miles of asphalt, multi-use trails are primarily for walking, cycling and inline skating, but golf carts and other electric vehicle are welcome. [Read more and see photos...](#)



### Color-coded wayfinding signs guide Colorado greenway users

The *Denver Post* reports that many new users are among the thousands who bike, skate, run, and walk along the Mary Carter Greenway Trail. "More than 80 new signs placed along the trail this past winter will help direct people no matter what time they're on the popular path. South

metro Denver officials said the clean and clear signs are an upgrade to the popular amenity that was long overdue." [Read more and see photos...](#)

### Public pushes Atlanta Beltline connection to Silver Comet Trail

The PATH Foundation and Connect the Comet are working to bridge the gap between Atlanta's popular Beltline and the Silver Comet Trail. They delivered 4,000 signatures to Gov. Nathan Deal's office in hopes of triggering further dialogue. Connected trails, they argue, will boost tourism, property values, and recreation opportunities for all. [Read more and see photos...](#)

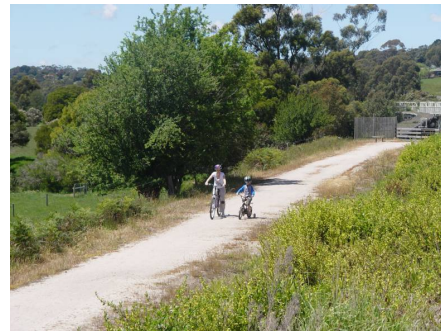
### Economic benefits of trails: not all see it that way

"As cities look to get greener, lower-income residents fear gentrification," a recent *USA Today* headline ran. The popularity of new urban greenways raises a new question: How do you add green space in lower-income areas without inevitably setting those populations up to be displaced by more well-heeled neighbors looking to enjoy the amenities? [Read more and see photos...](#)

## International News

### Australian leaders support trail on dormant rail line

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Andrew Constance of New South Wales introduced a bill into Parliament, calling for the transformation of 22 km of track, which had not been in operation since 1974. The dormant train line between Tumburumba and Rosewood is on track to become the historic first cycling rail trail in NSW. [Read article and commentary](#) and see [an additional article...](#)



### Olle Trail opens in Mongolia's grasslands

New trails totally 25 km have been opened to improve access for visitors to Mongolia's national parks. The trail work is supported by the Jeju Olle Foundation of Korea, which is a major sponsor of the [World Trails Conference](#). Other partners in the new trails are the Jeju Tourism Organization and Ulaanbaratar city. [Read more and see photos...](#)

### New Lake Superior trails emphasize accessibility

The Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy is celebrating the formal opening of a 1,000 kilometer water trail between Gros Cap and Thunder Bay. Composting toilets, accessible docking features, and accessible pathways are a few features found at many of the 16 trailheads along Ontario lakefront. [Read more and see photos...](#)

## TRAINING & RESOURCES

### Best practices for backcountry sanitation

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's *Backcountry Sanitation Manual* tackles an essential problem of living on the trail: "How does one achieve modern standards of sanitation and cleanliness without the alternatives provided by road access, septic systems, leaching fields, plumbing, and electricity?"

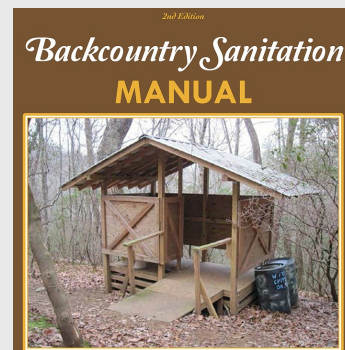
[Download the 329-page manual \(pdf 11.6 mb\)...](#)

### Salt Lake City updates bike/ped master plan

*Salt Lake City Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan* outlines goals and objectives, proposes a 20-year build-out of bicycle facilities, and recommends changes to City processes and programs. The Plan describes the goal of encouraging more participation in biking and walking. [Download the 139-page guide \(15.3 mb\)...](#)

### Colorado studies biking and walking benefits

A new State-sponsored study looks at the economic and health benefits of bicycling and walking in Colorado. The bottom line is that the total economic and health benefits of walking calculated for the State is approximately \$3.2 billion, and \$1.6 billion for bicycling. [Download the report \(pdf 6.6 mb\)...](#)



## Economic and livability value of multi-use trails

The Tammany Trace Rail Trail in Louisiana is the subject of *Assessing the Economic and Livability Value of Multi-Use Trails* by H. T. Hammons. The 2015 survey asked Trace users about their spending and quality of life perceptions of the trail. [Download the 87-page study \(pdf 6.8 mb\)](#)...

## Late Summer 2017 trail training opportunities

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

### August 1, 2017 — Webinar: Outdoor Recreation: Partnering for Relevancy and Inclusion

- Online webinar: 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern (1 pm Central, Noon Mountain, 11 am Pacific)
- Info: <https://www.recpro.org/webinars>

### August 3, 2017 — Webinar: Surface Roughness and Rollability Research for Pedestrians

- Online webinar: 2:30 pm Eastern
- Info: <https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session/?id=110598>

### August 4-11, 2017 — Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference

- Waterville, ME
- Info: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/>

### August 5, 2017 — Trail Assessment Training

- Palmer, AK
- Info: Steve Cleary at 907-334-804

### August 20-24, 2017 — Comprehensive Bikeway Design 1.0

- Portland, OR
- Info: <https://www.pdx.edu/ibpi/comprehensive-bikeway-design-10>

### August 22-27, 2017 — Annual NOHVCC/INOHVAA Joint Conference

- Manchester, NH
- Info: <http://www.nohvcc.org/Education/Conference.aspx>

### August 25-27, 2017 — Trail Building Workshop with Michigan Mountain Biking Association

- Boyne Falls, MI
- Info: <https://www.bikereg.com/mmbf17>

### September 7, 2017 — Webinar: Questions and Answers on Accessibility Standards

- Online webinar: 2:30 pm Eastern
- Info: <https://www.accessibilityonline.org/ao/session/?id=110599>

### September 13-15, 2017 — National Walking Summit

- St. Paul, MN
- Info: <http://walkingsummit.org/>

### September 24-26, 2017 — Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit

- Reading, PA
- Info: <http://www.prps.org/training/training-greenways.html>

### September 28-30, 2017 — Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium

- Olathe, KS
- Info: <http://www.santafetrail.org/trail-events.html>

Contact us with your scheduled training opportunities at [ntp@americantrails.org](mailto: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 charitable 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](http://www.AmericanTrails.org).
- Visit [American Trails "Supporting Trails" web page](#) 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 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](http://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](http://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!

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