

2017-18

A report on the use and benefits of Federal Recreational Trails Program funds across the United States

# Recreational Trails Program Annual Report

Covers the period of Federal FY 1993–FY 2017



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

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Foy's to Blacktail Trail, Montana; photo by Liz Seabaugh

# 2017-18 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report

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### COVER PHOTOS:

Clockwise from upper left:

- Great Miami River Bikeway, Dayton, Ohio; photo from Five Rivers MetroParks
- Burning Rock Outdoor Adventure Park, West Virginia; photo by Dyane Corcoran
- Chief Joseph Cross-Country Ski Trail System; photo from Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club
- Bluff Lake Trail, Denver, Colorado; photo by Stuart Macdonald

# 2017-18 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report

## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Annual Report is to provide information about the program and the projects funded in Federal fiscal years (FY) 2016-17. This report highlights program funding and administration, the RTP Database, and how States use funds. It illustrates eligible project types along with project examples receiving awards from the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT).

### Program Summary

The RTP is a Federal-aid assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to help the States provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized trail use. Projects include urban greenways and horse, mountain bike, hiking, and off-highway vehicle trails, as well as snow and water routes. Since 1993, States have received over \$1.3 billion in Federal funding for local projects.

Projects using RTP funds illustrate a variety of the ways that trails enhance public lands and communities across America. RTP projects help fulfill the U.S. Department of Transportation's strategic goals of Safety, by providing well-maintained trails and safety education, Infrastructure, through projects that connect and enhance public lands and communities across America, Innovation, through public-private partnerships and workforce development, and Accountability, through trail management and effective program delivery.

### Funding and Administration

The RTP was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), reauthorized in 1998 as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), again in 2005 through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). On December 4, 2015, the RTP was reauthorized as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, for FY 2016-20 (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/>). The RTP funds come from the Federal

Highway Trust Fund, which collects an estimated \$270 million per year in motor fuel excise tax from nonhighway recreational fuel use by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.

### Use of Recreational Trails Program Funds

States may use RTP funds for a variety of project types and expenditures which fall under eight categories of permissible uses. The RTP legislation identifies these general permissible use categories:

- Trail maintenance and restoration
- Trailside and trailhead facilities
- Equipment for construction and maintenance
- Construction of new recreational trails
- Acquisition of trail corridors
- Assessment of trail conditions
- Safety and environmental education
- Administration

### RTP Database

The RTP Database (<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>) provides an online record of RTP project data for the FHWA, Congress, the States, project managers, and the public. Over 22,900 projects can be searched by State, County, Congressional District, Trail Name, Project Name, Permissible Use, Managed Use, Land Ownership, and Year Awarded. Reports can be printed from the search results.

### National Benefits

Examples of how trails support larger public priorities include:

- Accessibility
- Active Transportation
- Economic Development
- Habitat Conservation
- Multiple-Use Management
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Repair and Rehabilitation
- Safe and Livable Communities
- Safety and Environmental Education
- Resiliency
- Workforce Development
- Youth Service and Conservation Corps

The legislation establishes requirements for project eligibility but provides substantial flexibility to the States on project selection.

# Funding and Administration

The RTP is a Federal-aid assistance program of the FHWA with funds provided to each State to build and maintain recreational trails and related facilities and activities.

Each State:

- Receives funds apportioned by statutory formula
- Administers its own program, usually through a State resource or park agency
- Develops its own procedures to solicit and select projects for funding
- Establishes a State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee representing both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail users to assist with the program

States are required to use 40 percent of their RTP funds for diverse recreational trail use, 30 percent for motorized recreation, and 30 percent for nonmotorized recreation. The 40-30-30 calculation takes place after accounting for State administrative costs. A small State exclusion exempts Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Rhode Island from 30 percent motorized and nonmotorized requirements.

The specifics of how to apply this formula to project selection is up to the States, and varies considerably around the country. States with large Federal land ownership sometimes fund backcountry projects with both motorized and nonmotorized use to achieve diversity. Others may fund projects with adjacent paved and unpaved trail surfaces for diverse nonmotorized activities, or trails with both winter snowmobiling and summer ATV use.

The Federal funds generally provide up to 80 percent of the project cost (with higher amounts permitted in States with a higher percentage of public lands), and require project sponsors to provide the remaining amount in matching resources (generally at least 20 percent). In many cases, the actual match from the project partners is 50 percent or more.



Trail building equipment on the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail/Fonta Flora State Trail Connector in North Carolina; photo from Burke County

✳️ *2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*

States seek to use RTP funds effectively, including streamlining required reviews, clarifying financial accountability, improving project selection, reducing project implementation costs for sponsors, and tracking program and project performance.

## Managed Uses

Managed Uses include a wide variety of both motorized and nonmotorized trail activities that are appropriate to recreational trails. The RTP legislation defines the term “recreational trail” as “a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes,” and includes the following activities:

- A. Pedestrian activities, including wheelchair use;
- B. Skating or skateboarding;
- C. Equestrian activities, including carriage driving;
- D. Nonmotorized snow trail activities, including skiing;
- E. Bicycling or use of other human powered vehicles;
- F. Aquatic or water activities; and
- G. Motorized vehicular activities, including all terrain vehicle riding, motorcycling, snowmobiling, use of off-road light trucks, or use of other off road motorized vehicles.

**Table 1 – RTP Apportionments:  
All States, All Years**

This table shows RTP funding authorized by Congress for use by States each year of the program. Beginning under MAP-21, the States return one percent annually to FHWA for program administration: up to \$841,600.

The funds were allocations in 1993, 1996, and 1997. The funds were apportionments for 1998-2017.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**

For current apportionments to States and details of year by year apportionments and obligations:

<http://goo.gl/hVwBI8>

Apportionments (All States)	RTP Funding	Obligated
1993 Allocation	\$7,275,000	\$5,696,543
1994 Allocation	\$0	\$1,581,335
1995 Allocation	\$0	\$0
1996 Allocation	\$14,688,000	\$11,595,075
1997 Allocation	\$14,688,000	\$16,256,403
1998 Apportioned	\$29,550,000	\$14,691,339
1999 Apportioned	\$39,400,000	\$33,750,926
2000 Apportioned	\$49,250,000	\$44,161,037
2001 Apportioned	\$49,250,000	\$44,826,248
2002 Apportioned	\$49,250,000	\$47,586,188
2003 Apportioned	\$48,929,875	\$44,915,197
2004 Apportioned	\$57,656,952	\$43,957,595
2005 Apportioned	\$59,160,000	\$43,459,118
2006 Apportioned	\$68,468,400	\$57,983,555
2007 Apportioned	\$74,160,000	\$65,913,964
2008 Apportioned	\$79,160,000	\$62,787,840
2009 Apportioned	\$84,160,000	\$81,113,236
2010 Apportioned	\$84,160,000	\$52,908,922
2011 Apportioned	\$96,570,196	\$88,649,335
2012 Apportioned	\$78,569,033	\$68,360,434
2013 Apportioned	\$79,212,744	\$65,371,220
2014 Apportioned	\$80,741,889	\$64,842,044
2015 Apportioned	\$80,741,889	\$71,980,520
2016 Apportioned	\$82,365,802	\$68,808,853
2017 Apportioned	\$82,365,802	\$83,165,826
<b>1993-2017 Totals</b>	<b>\$1,389,773,582</b>	<b>\$1,184,362,753</b>
1993-2017 Obligation Rate		85.22%

----- NOTES -----

**Table 1 (Page 5) and Table 3 (Page 7)**

The difference in the totals in Table 1 and Table 3 is due to the different sources providing the information (see the notes below) and the manner in which a State obligates its funding (e.g., some States obligate funds every other year). Additionally, the RTP Database does not currently have complete data for all States; data collection and validation for the RTP Database is an on-going effort. Data will be regularly entered into the Database as it is received from the States and the District of Columbia.

The obligation rate represents the percentage of funds committed to projects compared to the funds available. The obligation rate for the overall Federal-aid highway program averages about 95 percent over time. The obligation rate for the RTP has trended in the 80 to 85 percent range. There are many reasons why the RTP has a lower obligation rate. The obligation authority for the Federal-aid highway program is lower than the apportionments, so some States give priority to other Federal-aid highway programs. Several States report that they select projects on two-year cycles (even-numbered years tend to have lower obligation rates). Other States report that they delay project selection and implementation when there is uncertainty about the reauthorization of the program, or take time to implement the program after each new authorization act.

**Sources**

The source for the data in Tables 1 and 2 is Federal Highway Administration Office of Planning, Environment, & Realty.

The source for the data in Tables 3 (Page 7) and 4 (Page 17) is information voluntarily provided by the States and District of Columbia for the Recreational Trails Program Database (<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>).

**Table 2 – RTP Apportionments and Obligations  
by State for Federal FY 2016-17**

This table shows the number of projects per State for Federal FY 2016 and FY 2017.

It shows RTP funds apportioned to each State for the most recent two years of the program. The funding is based on the amount each State received in FY 2009. In that year, half of the funds were distributed equally among all States, and half were distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of off-road recreational fuel use in each State: fuel used for off-road recreation by snowmobiles, ATVs, off-road motorcycles, and off-road light trucks.

This table also shows obligations by State. Obligations are the Federal government's legal commitment to pay or reimburse the States or other entities for the Federal share of a project's eligible costs.

State	2016	FY 2016	FY 2016	2017	FY 2017	FY 2017
	Projects	Apportionment	Obligation	Projects	Apportionment	Obligation
Alabama	13	\$1,732,289	\$1,719,778	19	\$1,732,289	\$1,326,468
Alaska	32	\$1,512,643	\$1,109,919	22	\$1,512,643	\$1,048,503
Arizona	19	\$1,915,514	\$1,434,204	23	\$1,915,514	\$1,662,541
Arkansas <sup>7</sup>	15	\$1,479,029	\$1,476,560	0	\$1,479,029	\$1,255,483
California	19	\$5,698,627	\$9,569,214	1	\$5,698,627	\$11,421,964
Colorado <sup>3,5</sup>	15	\$1,575,735	\$1,132,719	0	\$1,575,735	\$4,002,584
Connecticut <sup>1</sup>	0	\$0	\$45,275	0	\$0	\$0
Delaware	12	\$896,623	\$1,782,402	1	\$896,623	\$1,437,182
Dist. Columbia <sup>3,5,8</sup>	1	\$816,847	-\$513,816	0	\$816,847	\$556,200
Florida	4	\$2,576,507	\$2,576,507	25	\$2,576,507	\$2,118,692
Georgia	14	\$1,722,736	\$1,003,276	14	\$1,722,736	\$1,247,828
Hawaii <sup>3,5</sup>	115	\$950,859	\$1,028,680	0	\$950,859	\$859,576
Idaho <sup>3,5</sup>	35	\$1,693,454	\$1,693,454	0	\$1,693,454	\$1,824,843
Illinois <sup>7</sup>	16	\$1,510,044	\$1,451,115	0	\$1,510,044	\$1,286,624
Indiana	8	\$1,189,692	\$1,118,995	7	\$1,189,692	\$589,200
Iowa <sup>7</sup>	6	\$1,361,069	\$1,136,805	0	\$1,361,069	\$1,680,335
Kansas	15	\$1,370,407	\$1,304,575	17	\$1,370,407	\$1,370,407
Kentucky	21	\$1,410,151	\$1,408,668	16	\$1,410,151	\$1,384,980
Louisiana	15	\$1,502,467	\$686,475	16	\$1,502,467	\$1,432,839
Maine <sup>3,5</sup>	31	\$1,428,314	\$938,000	0	\$1,428,314	\$938,000
Maryland <sup>3,5</sup>	38	\$1,112,384	\$1,112,384	0	\$1,112,384	\$707,670
Massachusetts <sup>3,5</sup>	32	\$1,174,862	\$1,172,512	0	\$1,174,862	\$1,860,622
Michigan <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>	12	\$2,825,415	\$2,745,062	0	\$2,825,415	\$12,657
Minnesota	28	\$2,391,888	\$2,272,061	34	\$2,391,888	\$2,270,364
Mississippi <sup>8</sup>	14	\$1,348,305	-\$74,082	20	\$1,348,305	\$2,173,368
Missouri	16	\$1,646,765	\$161,323	1	\$1,646,765	\$2,281,584
Montana	45	\$1,590,638	\$1,590,638	54	\$1,590,638	\$1,590,638
Nebraska <sup>3,5</sup>	4	\$1,205,213	\$1,240,564	0	\$1,205,213	\$925,084
Nevada	16	\$1,344,370	\$1,470,019	17	\$1,344,370	\$1,955,908
New Hampshire	0	\$1,255,265	\$1,515,530	25	\$1,255,265	\$1,249,909
New Jersey <sup>6,7</sup>	0	\$1,214,489	\$2,262,884	0	\$1,214,489	\$876,786
New Mexico	8	\$1,415,533	\$1,533,391	5	\$1,415,533	\$632,954
New York <sup>7</sup>	6	\$2,182,510	\$490,682	0	\$2,182,510	\$2,192,625
North Carolina	21	\$1,597,424	\$229,240	26	\$1,597,424	\$561,636
North Dakota	10	\$1,120,562	\$1,008,506	10	\$1,120,562	\$1,008,506
Ohio	14	\$1,655,132	\$1,334,690	2	\$1,655,132	\$1,410,262
Oklahoma	22	\$1,769,212	\$2,943,787	13	\$1,769,212	\$1,613,097
Oregon <sup>7</sup>	22	\$1,594,051	\$373,135	0	\$1,594,051	\$1,226,665
Pennsylvania <sup>7</sup>	13	\$1,971,353	\$1,999,985	0	\$1,971,353	\$2,041,780
Rhode Island <sup>3,5</sup>	15	\$856,384	\$0	0	\$856,384	\$1,593,178
South Carolina	11	\$1,199,108	\$185,000	12	\$1,199,108	\$2,663,409
South Dakota	11	\$1,125,821	\$642,921	12	\$1,125,821	\$1,121,445
Tennessee <sup>3,5</sup>	5	\$1,624,207	\$1,086,141	0	\$1,624,207	\$1,451,444
Texas <sup>7</sup>	23	\$3,954,874	\$1,292,827	0	\$3,954,874	\$1,806,016
Utah	40	\$1,546,233	\$719,470	54	\$1,546,233	\$2,182,581
Vermont <sup>7</sup>	65	\$1,017,730	\$940,382	0	\$1,017,730	\$939,660
Virginia <sup>3,5,8</sup>	0	\$1,511,889	-\$335,921	0	\$1,511,889	\$24,953
Washington	20	\$1,867,407	\$1,867,407	21	\$1,867,407	\$1,867,407
West Virginia <sup>3,5</sup>	14	\$1,297,964	\$1,426,567	0	\$1,297,964	\$1,624,858
Wisconsin <sup>7</sup>	71	\$2,146,076	\$2,322,059	0	\$2,146,076	\$2,178,673
Wyoming	18	\$1,459,731	\$1,176,884	20	\$1,459,731	\$1,675,838
<b>Total to States</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>\$82,365,802</b>	<b>\$68,808,853</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>\$82,365,802</b>	<b>\$83,165,826</b>

<sup>1</sup> State's Governor opted out of the RTP but obligated past funds.

<sup>2</sup> State has not yet provided a breakdown of the number of FY 2016 projects.

<sup>3</sup> State has not yet provided a breakdown of the number of FY 2017 projects.

<sup>4</sup> State has not yet provided funding and match information for FY 2016 projects.

<sup>5</sup> State has not yet provided funding and match information for FY 2017 projects.

<sup>6</sup> State's FY 2016 or 2017 projects are combined with an earlier or later fiscal year.

<sup>7</sup> State has not yet not obligated funds FY 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Negative amounts represent deobligated projects.

**Table 3 – RTP Database Projects and Funding  
Federal FY 1993-FY 2017**

This table shows the number of projects funded plus the amount of funding by State for Federal FY 1993-2017. It shows the total RTP funds obligated by each State during the period. In addition, the “Total Other Funding” column shows how much additional match was provided by project sponsors. Note that the matching funds are generally higher than the 20 percent minimum required by RTP. In 10 States the match is higher than the total RTP funds apportioned.

State	1993-2017 Projects	Total RTP Funding	Total Other Funding
Alabama	366	\$29,532,434	\$9,753,756
Alaska	481	\$16,735,231	\$5,271,411
Arizona	279	\$22,808,685	\$5,933,478
Arkansas <sup>7</sup>	361	\$14,568,213	\$9,041,604
California <sup>6</sup> (Motorized)	408	\$64,036,361	\$40,722,574
Colorado <sup>3,5</sup>	434	\$17,121,474	\$24,516,929
Connecticut <sup>1</sup>	369	\$19,178,479	\$11,921,480
Delaware	152	\$11,225,196	\$6,273,502
District of Columbia <sup>3,5</sup>	36	\$7,876,842	\$1,811,722
Florida	238	\$31,205,137	\$26,797,829
Georgia	335	\$30,242,518	\$24,145,157
Hawaii <sup>3,5</sup>	1,362	\$12,286,726	\$3,254,532
Idaho <sup>3,5</sup>	652	\$22,930,889	\$19,241,182
Illinois <sup>7</sup>	297	\$28,984,437	\$13,442,707
Indiana	156	\$21,910,959	\$6,783,264
Iowa <sup>7</sup>	123	\$28,061,126	\$7,046,905
Kansas	337	\$19,460,793	\$12,537,381
Kentucky	526	\$19,704,416	\$19,322,140
Louisiana	389	\$23,458,491	\$21,795,532
Maine <sup>3,5</sup>	681	\$16,139,355	\$5,592,927
Maryland <sup>3,5</sup>	860	\$20,446,378	\$7,689,145
Massachusetts <sup>3,5</sup>	503	\$14,392,286	\$12,248,934
Michigan <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>	316	\$38,380,501	\$26,583,670
Minnesota	514	\$33,163,603	\$59,156,950
Mississippi	299	\$24,097,534	\$6,026,418
Missouri	340	\$25,436,262	\$26,815,856
Montana	957	\$22,197,312	\$18,985,992
Nebraska <sup>3,5</sup>	140	\$16,624,177	\$7,836,816
Nevada	360	\$17,586,809	\$9,960,292
New Hampshire	788	\$14,257,765	\$15,382,510
New Jersey <sup>6,7</sup>	846	\$18,014,988	\$43,805,535
New Mexico	203	\$16,927,819	\$6,420,524
New York <sup>7</sup>	434	\$33,208,352	\$13,470,311
North Carolina	567	\$30,994,767	\$39,047,788
North Dakota	286	\$16,654,049	\$4,845,964
Ohio	319	\$25,785,988	\$24,276,090
Oklahoma	307	\$27,600,964	\$14,918,619
Oregon <sup>7</sup>	437	\$20,997,202	\$20,700,498
Pennsylvania <sup>7</sup>	397	\$34,371,901	\$21,847,360
Rhode Island <sup>3,5</sup>	377	\$7,064,002	\$2,936,098
South Carolina	278	\$17,819,864	\$6,062,199
South Dakota	391	\$20,941,050	\$11,856,826
Tennessee <sup>3,5</sup>	256	\$20,819,369	\$6,225,859
Texas <sup>7</sup>	512	\$60,867,170	\$21,113,675
Utah	567	\$27,060,414	\$44,859,092
Vermont <sup>7</sup>	1,262	\$13,950,290	\$23,473,914
Virginia <sup>3,5</sup>	305	\$22,139,997	\$9,450,338
Washington	674	\$27,616,592	\$45,453,587
West Virginia <sup>3,5</sup>	304	\$13,205,585	\$3,691,801
Wisconsin <sup>7</sup>	697	\$23,389,157	\$43,477,087
Wyoming	496	\$23,133,671	\$14,711,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,975</b>	<b>\$1,186,613,580</b>	<b>\$888,537,305</b>

<sup>1</sup> State’s Governor opted out of the RTP but obligated past funds.  
<sup>2</sup> State has not yet provided a breakdown of the number of FY 2016 projects.  
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<sup>7</sup> State has not yet not obligated funds FY 2017.

# RTP Database

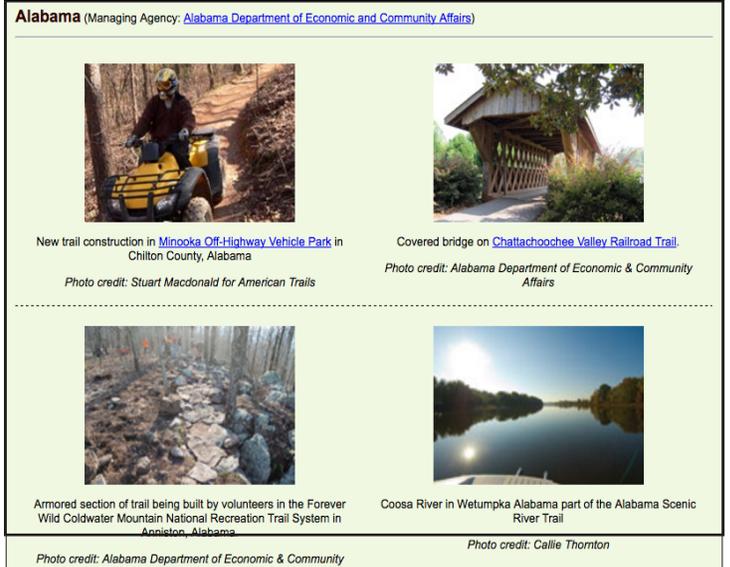
The goal of the RTP Database is to provide comprehensive, up-to-date project data on recreational trails projects in all 50 States and the District of Columbia over the RTP program's entire life-cycle. The RTP Database (<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>) includes more than 22,900 projects that have received over \$1.3 billion in funding. These projects have been matched with \$888 million in funds and contributions.

The RTP Database provides a central repository for RTP project data that may be used by the FHWA, Congress, the States, RTP administrators, project managers, and the public. To promote program transparency, FHWA seeks to know how States use RTP funds in a manner that provides sufficient information to the public without undue burden on State program administrators.

In 2016, FHWA contracted with KMS Enterprises, Inc. (which subcontracted with American Trails and Arch Systems LLC) to develop, operate, and update a searchable RTP Database to be available on a website, and to provide annual reports on RTP funding. New data is regularly entered into the Database as the States, District of Columbia, and other sources voluntarily provide this information.

Updating the RTP Database is important because there are more than 1,000 new RTP projects each

The RTP Database provides a comprehensive data search by location, project/trail name, permissible use categories, and project timeframe.



The RTP Database Image Library provides examples of projects funded by the RTP from every State and the District of Columbia.

year. American Trails also gathers photographs for the Image Library to provide examples of permissible uses and managed uses for trails, related facility construction, and other project types.

Database users can search by State, County, Congressional District, Trail Name, Project Name, Permissible Use, Managed Use, Land Ownership, and Year Awarded. Reports can be printed from the search results. Database users can view a record of the project for more information. A brief webinar on how to navigate and use the RTP Database is located online: <http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>. The webinar will be updated in 2018.



[<<< Return to Search](#)

## Results for Comprehensive Database Search

Your Search Criteria:

- State: Default Value: All States

Your search returned 20481 results.

[\(Printing tips\)](#)

[Print to PDF](#)

Show 10 entries

Keyword Search:

State ^	Project Year v	Trail Name ^	Project Name ^	Description	Cong. District(s) ^	County(s) ^	RTP Funds ^	Other Funds ^	Total Funds ^
AK	2014		<a href="#">FY 2014 RTP Administrative Allowance</a>	FY 2014 Recreational Trails Program Administrative Allowance	1		\$106,741	\$10,596	\$117,337
AK	2014	<a href="#">Point Bridget Trail</a>	<a href="#">Point Bridget Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Juneau Borough	\$12,667	\$1,257	\$13,924
AK	2014	<a href="#">Battery Point Trail</a>	<a href="#">Battery Point Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Haines Borough	\$17,494	\$1,737	\$19,231
AK	2014	<a href="#">Mosquito Cove Trail</a>	<a href="#">Mosquito Cove Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Sitka Borough	\$5,475	\$543	\$6,018
AK	2014	<a href="#">Settlers Cove Trails</a>	<a href="#">Settlers Cove SRS Trail System</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	\$5,485	\$544	\$6,029
AK	2014	<a href="#">Forest and Muskeg Trail</a>	<a href="#">Forest and Muskeg Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Sitka Borough	\$5,125	\$509	\$5,634
AK	2014	<a href="#">Loop Trail (Methodist Camp Trail)</a>	<a href="#">Loop Trail (Methodist Camp Trail)</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Juneau Borough	\$9,895	\$982	\$10,877
AK	2014	<a href="#">Iditarod National Historic Trail</a>	<a href="#">Eagle River Nature Center Historic Iditarod Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Anchorage Borough	\$9,704	\$2,426	\$12,130
AK	2014	<a href="#">Black Sands Beach State Marine Park Trail</a>	<a href="#">Black Sands Beach State Marine Park Trail</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	\$4,994	\$496	\$5,490
AK	2014	<a href="#">Kachemak Bay Interpretive Trails</a>	<a href="#">Restoring Kachemak Bay Interpretive Trails</a>	Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles	1	Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$49,989	\$12,496	\$62,485
Grand Totals (all results)							\$1,003,323,178	\$727,402,449	\$1,730,725,627

Showing 1 to 10 of 20,481 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 ... 2049 Next



The Lafitte Greenway trail in New Orleans is an example of the RTP funding category “Construction of new recreational trails.” It is also an example of a project contributing toward “Safe and Livable Communities,” as described in the National Benefits section. Photo by Stuart Macdonald

# Use of RTP Funds

The RTP legislation identifies eight categories of permissible uses for how States may use RTP funds. The following pages provide details and examples for each use. The categories are:

- A** Trail maintenance and restoration
- B** Trailside and trailhead facilities
- C** Equipment for construction and maintenance
- D** Construction of new recreational trails
- E** Acquisition of trail corridors
- F** Assessment of trail conditions
- G** Education for safety and environmental protection
- H** Administration

See the text of the legislation defining the categories:  
<http://goo.gl/C5Z0y>

## Project Example

### Lafitte Greenway Corridor, Louisiana

Following Hurricane Katrina, development of the Lafitte Greenway re-emerged as a City of New Orleans priority. The former shipping canal and railway that once connected the historic French Quarter to Bayou St. John has been converted into publicly accessible open space. At the heart of the Greenway is a bicycle and pedestrian trail that facilitates travel among diverse, adjacent neighborhoods. The trail corridor has many access points which enable nonmotorized travel from residential areas to the park areas as well as to transit stops and the edge of downtown New Orleans.

The trail construction project was funded by the RTP. The paved bicycling and walking path links a variety of facilities which were funded by other sources, such as a Federal Disaster Community Development Block Grant. These recreation facilities include playgrounds, basketball courts, picnic areas, and native plant gardens.



**PERMISSIBLE USE**

**A**

## Trail maintenance and restoration

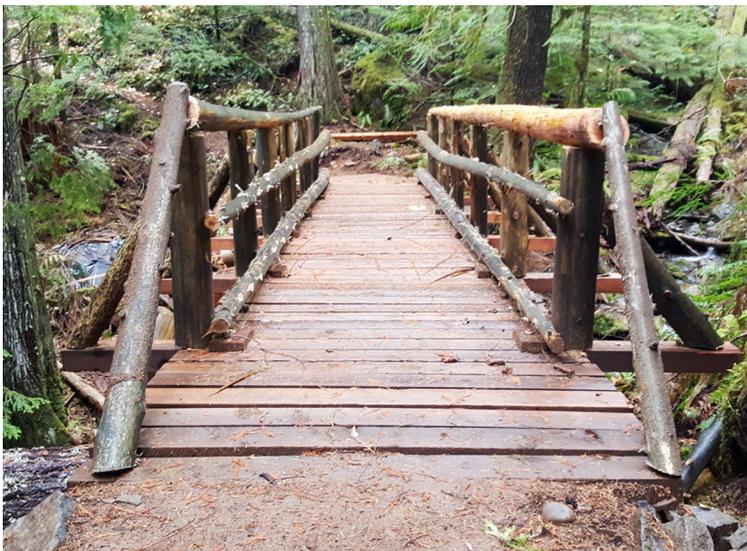
**Category A:** Maintenance and restoration of existing trails: trail maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, or relocation. This category may include maintenance and restoration of trail bridges, or provide appropriate signage along a trail.

**Project Example**

### Alaka'i Swamp Trail, Hawaii

The Alaka'i Swamp Trail on the island of Kauai was built decades ago. Conditions and constant use have rotted the boardwalk and rusted the mesh stabilizers. The boardwalk was reconstructed with new slip-proof recycled plastic material that has been reinforced with fiberglass. At left, old wood planks are sinking into wetlands, while at right new plastic lumber is installed on stringers. Photos are from Hawaii State Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

✳️ *2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*



**Project Example**

### Middle Fork National Recreation Trail Improvements Project, Oregon

The Middle Fork Trail project included new bridges, trail reroutes, and improvements to the 27-mile riverside trail. Creeks that are habitat for two endangered fish species were bridged with puncheon and trail bridges. Building stream crossings for equestrians and moving flood-prone trails will reduce sediment entering the water, while making a safer route for users.

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Completed Pioneer Gulch Bridge built with youth corps labor; photo from Willamette National Forest



**PERMISSIBLE USE**

**B**

## Trailside and trailhead facilities

**Category B:** Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails. Typical eligible work includes parking areas, toilets, horse and vehicle unloading facilities, signs, and seating.

**Project Example**

### Shadow Mountain Trailhead, Wyoming

A project to improve the trail system on the Bridger-Teton National Forest included trailhead development in the Shadow Mountain area. Trail markers and signs were added along new sections of trail to keep OHV riders on designated routes. The trailhead sign details OHV regulations, safe and ethical trail use, and interacting with wildlife. Photo from Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson Ranger District.



Dolan Springs Trail System in Arizona received a variety of improvements including wayside benches installed by volunteers from Kingman Back Country Horsemen; photo from Mohave County Parks.

**Project Example**

### Dolan Springs Trail System, Arizona

RTP funds have supported a variety of trailside improvements for the Dolan Springs Trail System in northern Mohave County: to install a vault toilet, upgrade highway signage to include biking and equestrian use, update trail maps and brochures, and install wayside benches.

The project provided tools needed to assist volunteer crews to redirect trail alignment to avoid erosion. Old sun-faded signage along the trail is to be replaced with new signs that are matched with a redesigned brochure. User safety is enhanced by detouring the unsafe washouts and GPS waypoints have been installed on the new signs to assist emergency response in the event of an incident.

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**PERMISSIBLE USE**

**C**

**Equipment for construction and maintenance**

**Category C:** Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment. Examples include snow trail grooming equipment, mechanized trailbuilding equipment, vehicles for trail maintenance, and other equipment to help maintain the trail surface, drainage, and adjacent vegetation.

**Project Example**

**Cochran Mill Park Trail, Georgia**

In 2013, a \$100,000 RTP grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided the funds to create a remarkable park transformation. Eight miles of new sustainable multiuse trails have been designed and constructed and ten miles of old trails have been rehabilitated.

Purchase of trail building equipment was an important part of the project that enabled work to be done at lower cost. Thanks to the RTP Grant and the work of many volunteers, Cochran Mill Park now has 18 miles of sustainable multiuse trails shared by hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and trail runners. Photo from City of Chattahoochee Hills.

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**Project Example**

**Mount Tahoma Trails Association, Washington**

Snow trails are an important part of Washington’s outdoor recreation opportunities. Large grooming equipment is used by Mount Tahoma Trails Association and other volunteer organizations to maintain winter trails. Photo from Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.



**PERMISSIBLE USE**

**D**

**Construction of new recreational trails**

**Category D:** Construction of new recreational trails. This is the largest category of expenditures in most States, and includes paved and unpaved trails, water trails, snow trails, and bridges. The needs of local communities, agencies, and trail users are reflected in the great variety of trail construction that has been accomplished. Urban trails, greenways, natural surface pathways, paddling routes, and recreational vehicle routes are all well represented in RTP funding.

**Project Example**

**Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Trail - Delaware and Maryland**

The project constructed a 14.5-mile paved trail along the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The multipurpose trail has created a safer connection for communities from Delaware City, DE to Chesapeake City, MD by transforming a canal maintenance track into a premier destination for hikers, runners, walkers, cyclists, anglers, and equestrian enthusiasts. Photo by Donald Andberg.

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**Project Example**

**Ash to Kings Trail, Nevada**

In 2009, the nonprofit organization, “Muscle Powered: Citizens for a Walkable and Bikeable Carson City,” began work on an effort to build a nonmotorized, multiuse trail for hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians. From 2009 to 2012, a Muscle Powered team of experienced volunteer trail-builders began scouting the area to determine feasible trail routes. This collaborative process resulted in a trail design that exceeded expectations for scenic vistas, safety, and sustainable grade for all ability levels of hikers, bikers, runners, and horseback riders. Photo of volunteer checking trail grade during layout from Muscle Powered.

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## PERMISSIBLE USE

# E

### Acquisition of trail corridors

**Category E:** Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors. This category may include acquisition of old road or railroad bridges to be converted to trail use. Acquisition of any kind of interest in property must be from a willing landowner or seller.



Project Example

#### Eureka Trail, Tennessee

Land for development of the 4.8-mile Eureka Trail was purchased with the help of \$240,000 in RTP funds. When completed, the trail will link the City of Athens and the Town of Englewood. The rails-to-trails conversion was also supported by private foundations and the State of Tennessee. A local property owner donated land adjacent to the trail that will enable additional neighborhood access.

The City of Athens, the Town of Englewood, and McMinn County developed an inter-local agreement for maintenance, operations, and expansion. Public concerns were addressed and the purchase of the property moved forward using RTP funds. Photo from City of Athens.

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## PERMISSIBLE USE

# F

### Assessment of trail conditions

**Category F:** Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance, authorizes specific projects to assess trails to determine the level of accessibility for people who have disabilities, to develop programs to provide trail access information, and to assess trails for current or future maintenance needs.



Project Example

#### Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex Trails, Montana

Trail assessments help keep the thousands of miles of trails across the country maintained for consistent safety and enjoyable use. With over 1,700 miles of trails, the Bob Marshall Wilderness has an endless need for monitoring trail conditions. With a short work season, accurate assessment and planning for major maintenance projects is essential.

The survey work helps facilitate efficient use of the many volunteers who accomplish much of the maintenance needed on the trails. The photo shows a Forest Service trail crew documenting a serious blowdown on Youngs Creek Trail where several hundred trees needed to be removed using crosscut saws and axes since the area is designated Wilderness. Photo by Fischer Gangemi.

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# G

### Education for safety and environmental protection

**Category G:** Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection.

A State may use up to five percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

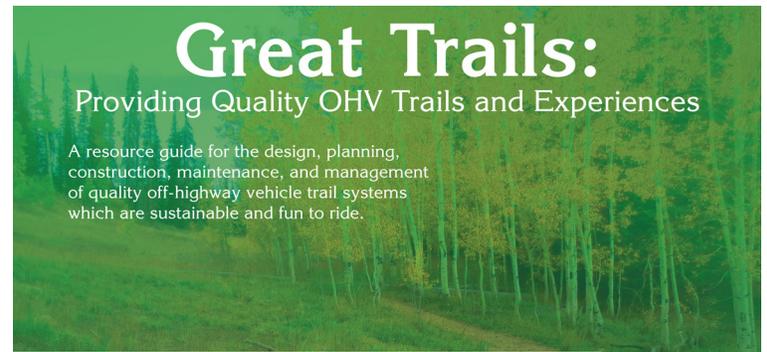


Photo from Coalition of Recreational Trail Users

### Project Example

#### Coalition of Recreational Trail Users Educational Trailer, Minnesota

The Coalition of Recreational Trail Users (CRTU) is a nonprofit organization formed by a partnership of Minnesota’s motorized recreational trail user communities. The coalition recognized the need to educate users of OHVs, as well as the general public, regarding safe and responsible motorized recreation. To answer these needs, CRTU developed a plan for an education and outreach trailer to be stocked with information on rules, regulations, safety, and OHV clubs, as well as maps and youth safety training CDs. The trailer has travelled to many locations, such as the Minnesota State Fair (photo above) and has hosted many thousands of visitors.

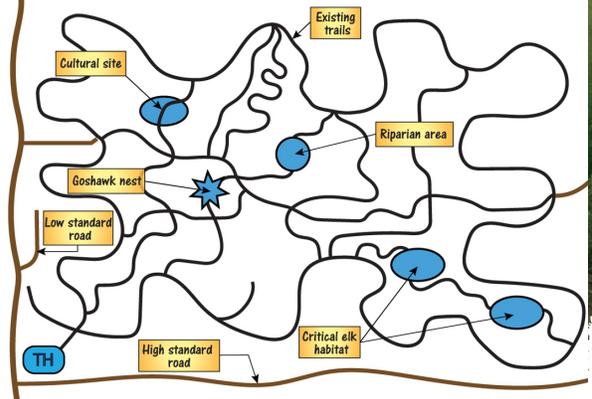


## Great Trails:

### Providing Quality OHV Trails and Experiences

A resource guide for the design, planning, construction, maintenance, and management of quality off-highway vehicle trail systems which are sustainable and fun to ride.

#### What do we do with our inventory?



Graphics from National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council

### Project Example

#### Great Trails: Providing Quality OHV Trails and Experiences Guidebook, Nationwide

Publications related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment are eligible for RTP Education funds. These steps relate to safety and environmental protection. They result in building safer trails that also minimize the impact of both trail users and construction.

**Great Trails: Providing Quality OHV Trails and Experiences** details best practices in planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, and managing OHV recreational trail systems. The guidebook is aimed at state and federal planners, trail managers, and land managers, as well as volunteers, OHV clubs, and private land owners.

The theme of the guidebook is “balancing the needs of the recreationists with protection of resources.” It also helps land managers understand that trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management are not five separate processes but rather one continuous process, “the Great Trail Continuum.”

The guidebook was produced by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC). Many organizations, agencies, and State trails programs were involved in funding the project, which includes RTP funding.

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Indiana's Trails Advisory Board works to promote information sharing and cooperation among all trail activities and interests; photo from Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

✳️ 2016 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner



Arizona's State Trails Program celebrates a new era for efficiency and effectiveness in providing technical assistance as well as funding for project sponsors; photo from Arizona State Parks and Trails.

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## PERMISSIBLE USE

# H

### Administration

**Category H:** Payment of costs to the State incurred in administering the program.

In addition to Staff time to administer the program and grants, other activities related to recreational trails are eligible under this category, including:

- Costs related to the State recreational trail advisory committee— newsletters, websites, or other communications
- Publications and conferences related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment
- Statewide trail planning

A State may use up to seven percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for State administrative costs in that fiscal year. Any funds not used for administration within a fiscal year must be used for on-the-ground trail projects.

## Project Example

### State Trails Program, Arizona

Arizona's RTP Grants Program has received recognition for its transformation into a model State trails program. Simplicity, transparency, efficiency, and accountability have been brought to the grants process.

The State simplified the grant process and reduced the grants manual from 200 pages to 40. The State expanded outreach from 1 or 2 annual workshops in one city to 5 workshops in 4 different sites, augmented by webinars and site visits.

The State revamped the grants management system in 1 year, and developed a new online system. The State implemented policy changes to ensure timely completion and closeout of RTP projects.

And as further recognition during Arizona State Parks' 60th anniversary celebration—to highlight the extraordinary number of volunteer organizations and individuals building and maintaining trails—Arizona State Parks officially changed its name to Arizona State Parks and Trails.

**Table 4 – RTP Database Trail Project Work by Permissible Use  
Federal FY 1993-FY 2017**

Data collection and validation for the RTP Database is an ongoing effort. Data will be regularly entered into the Database as it is received from the States, District of Columbia, and other sources.

<b>A. Maintenance and Restoration</b>		<b>15,545</b>
Trail Restoration/Rehabilitation	5,606	
Trail Relocation	542	
Trail Grooming	2,124	
Trail Maintenance	5,526	
Bridge Restoration/Rehabilitation	990	
Bridge Relocation	65	
Bridge Maintenance	692	
<b>B. Trailside and Trailhead Facilities</b>		<b>11,790</b>
Trailhead Work	2,666	
Parking	1,733	
Signs	3,769	
Restrooms	1,086	
Accessibility Features	712	
Access Ramps	512	
Other Trailhead & Trailside Facilities	1,312	
<b>C. Equipment for Construction and Maintenance</b>		<b>2,771</b>
<b>D. Construction of New Recreational Trails</b>		<b>9,419</b>
Trail	7,719	
Bridge	1,700	
<b>E. Acquisition of Trail Corridors</b>		<b>415</b>
<b>F. Assessment of Trail Conditions</b>		<b>250</b>
<b>G. Education for Safety and Environmental Protection</b>		<b>3,047</b>
Publications (Maps & Brochures)	640	
Safety Programs	1,012	
Environmental Programs	947	
Other Educational Programs	448	
<b>H. Administration</b>		<b>811</b>
<b>I. Unspecified/Unlisted</b>		<b>1,393</b>

---- NOTES ----

RTP funds may be used for projects within eight permissible use categories. The table shows the number of projects funded within each category since the inception of the program. Some categories are broken down further to specify the project type.

Many projects are listed under more than one category, so a total would double or triple count many projects. Maintenance and restoration projects are the most common projects, followed by trail facilities, and new trail construction.

Education funds are used for many kinds of projects such as signs, video guides, interpretive kiosks, safety brochures, and training programs. Many of these products are for trailheads and interpretation that are specific to an individual trail, and training is typically an event in a specific venue. States are also sharing educational curricula, OHV safety campaign materials, and designs for standard signs.

The source for the data in Tables 3 (page 7) and 4 is information that the States provided for the RTP Database (<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>).



Enjoying winter on the The Chief Joseph Ski Trail System in Montana; photo by Michael Hoyt, Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club

# National Benefits

A review of RTP-funded projects reveals the many benefits of providing quality trails in our communities and across our public lands. Some important benefits are identified along with examples of how trails support aspirations for maintaining the health of people as well as the environment, encouraging economic activity, providing jobs and education, and improving communities across America.

## Accessibility

RTP funds have been used in every State to improve the accessibility of trails for persons with disabilities to make communities, trails, and recreation facilities more available to all. These projects have also highlighted the needs of older people, families with children, and those who are new to trail activities.

Use of RTP funds also encourages project sponsors to follow the “Final Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas” under the Architectural Barriers Act. These specifications for accessible recreational trails and other outdoor developed areas apply to projects on Federal lands or constructed by a Federal agency. Although the guidelines do not necessarily apply to Federal-aid projects (unless on Federal land), they provide best practices that States may adopt to ensure equivalent compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Graber Pond Accessible Trail; photo from City of Middleton, Wisconsin

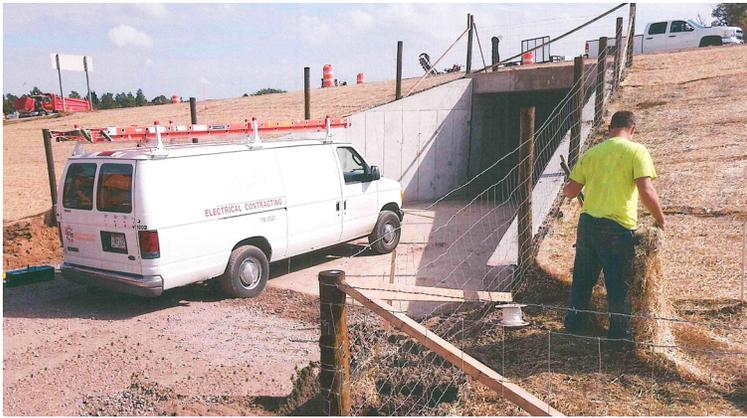
The Graber Pond Trail is a 0.35-mile accessible, multiuse recreation trail built with porous asphalt over rolling terrain around a glacial kettle pond. The trail also fords a protected wetland via an 830-foot timber-decked, steel-framed boardwalk. This trail is enjoyed by pedestrians, bikers, and wheelchair users. The project also includes an accessible kayak launch facility on the pond.

 *2016 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*

## Active Transportation

A significant amount of RTP funding is used to help build transportation networks in cities across America. The term “active transportation” refers to bicycling, walking, and other nonmotorized transportation modes. Often these trail and sidewalk networks are well integrated with public transit. Trails can be both efficient modes of transportation as well as linear parks and habitat corridors.

Active transportation networks can also enhance recreation, and people will use attractive and safe trails as a way to get to school, work, or shopping instead of driving. The ultimate benefit is in increasing physical activity to reduce the rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and other chronic health conditions across the United States.



Black River Falls, Wisconsin community linkage serves both motorized and nonmotorized trail users; photo from Jackson County Forestry and Parks

✱ 2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner

## Economic Development

Many studies show that trails and greenways promote economic activity through spending, employment, and tax revenues. Increased property values, tourism, and recreation-related spending on equipment, food, and lodging are ways trails positively impact community economies. A major benefit of trails is that they attract people and promote economic development in rural areas.

Many towns have been successful at identifying their recreation resources, creating systems of trails, and making them more available through maps, signs, marketing, events, and tours. Communities adjacent to public lands benefit from trails on those lands. Much of the investment in maintaining and creating trail systems comes from volunteers and donations from businesses.

The Tammany Trace is a 31-mile rail trail across southern Louisiana that links five small towns. Local shops and restaurants cater to runners and cyclists, while annual events also attract visitors. A 2015 study found yearly economic benefits are over \$3.3 million for direct spending, such as overnight stays, while about 25 people are employed as trail rangers and maintenance staff full and part time.

## Habitat Conservation

Trail improvement projects can also promote natural resource management strategies that help ensure environmental quality, such as restoring degraded stream corridors and other habitats in the process of trail building, and guiding visitors away from sensitive wildlife habitat and into more sustainable settings.

RTP funding is also commonly used for projects involving acquisition of land for protection and reroutes to avoid habitat impacts. Industrial and mined lands have also been converted to trail use.



ATVs on the trail at Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park; photo from Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Gypsum City OHV Park, the largest public riding area in Iowa, covers 800 acres reclaimed from gypsum mining. Its diverse topography with open fields, rolling hills, and challenging cliffs is attractive to motorized vehicle recreation. Local ATV enthusiasts and community leaders recognized an opportunity to clean up and revegetate the area and turn it into an asset for tourism and the economy.

✱ 2016 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner

## Multiple-Use Management

RTP funds frequently are used for improvements that support multiple trail uses. Since diverse forms of transportation are often allowed on trails, this is an important and challenging part of trail management. The goals for land managers are maintaining user safety, protecting natural resources, and providing high-quality user experiences.

To address these challenges, managers employ a wide array of physical and management options such as trail design, information and education, user involvement, and regulations and enforcement. Specific project work includes trail sharing and etiquette signs, trailhead facilities, stream crossing improvements, and trail work to improve sight lines and maintain tread width.

## Public-Private Partnerships

Partnerships have proven to be a key to success for RTP-funded projects. Many projects include different levels of governments and agencies working together. Communities and counties work across jurisdictional lines, with cooperation from agencies for parks, health, transportation, and education. Business interests, trail clubs, and a variety of non-profit organizations are often funding partners.

The Iron Range OHV Recreation Area in Minnesota is a good example. Construction was completed through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, OHV clubs, the area tourism board, and the local community. Most of the 30 miles of trails were constructed and signed by volunteers from OHV clubs.



Iron Range OHV Recreation Area, Minnesota; photo from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

## Repair and Rehabilitation

Just as our communities and transportation systems are vulnerable to major damage, so are our trails and parks. All trails need maintenance, but extreme weather events as well as heavy visitor use will require additional rebuilding. Damage from wildfires and resulting erosion have also affected many miles of trails on public lands.

RTP funds have been used to address renovation needs such as:

- Trees blown down across trails
- Erosion damage and washed-out culverts
- Flooded trail and greenway corridors
- Bridges needing replacement or rehabilitation



Beaver Creek Fire Restoration Project, Idaho; photo from Ketchum Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest

Six trails on the Ketchum Ranger District in Idaho were devastated in the 114,000-acre Beaver Creek Fire and mudslides. A major restoration project benefits equestrians, hikers, dirt bike riders, and mountain bikers by reopening 11 miles of trails which connect to 60 additional miles. The Northwest Youth Corps and Forest Service crews worked with Wood River Bike Coalition staff and volunteers.

## Safe and Livable Communities

Trails are an important part of our transportation infrastructure. Trails support the economy through tourism and civic improvement, and provide opportunities for physical activity to improve fitness and mental health. Cities, suburbs, and towns all benefit from trails and greenways that make our communities more attractive to residents as well as employers.

Trails also help our parks and open space by reducing crime and illegal activity through regular use and high visibility of users. Modest increases in property values near trails have also been documented.



The Rountree Branch Trail in Platteville, Wisconsin, links neighborhoods, businesses, and a university campus. Photo from the City of Platteville.

 2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner

## Safety and Environmental Education

Every State has used RTP funding for educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection. OHV safety training and educational materials have been the largest type of RTP expenditures for these activities.

New safety issues have emerged with the popularity of boating and designated water trails. Safety is a key part of the training and resources provided by States and organizations for planning, managing, and promoting water trail facilities.

Trail-related environmental education teaches about economic, social, and ecological interdependence while experiencing nature and the outdoors. Trails and the natural areas they pass through are outdoor laboratories for schools as well as adults. For children active in natural settings, research indicates a number of benefits in better understanding of the environment as well as improvements in physical and mental health.

## Resiliency



The new bridge following flooding (top) and after clean-up; photos from Utah/Arizona ATV Club

The Kanab Creek OHV Bridge project in Utah replaced an often-flooded stream crossing with a new bridge built from a recycled 60-foot overhead crane beam. A late summer flash flood roared down Kanab Creek, with debris and logs pelting the bridge, but it withstood the severe flooding. Utah/Arizona ATV Club volunteers got together for an area clean-up and the bridge continued in service to access many miles of trails on Bureau of Land Management land.

 2016 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner

For trails, sustainability may mean better route planning, mitigation of impacts, using recycled materials, and reducing erosion. To trail managers, sustainability is key to reducing expenditures on maintenance by better design of trails, and the use of appropriate materials and structures. Sustainable trails should also:

- Protect resources and the environment
- Require minimal maintenance
- Provide satisfying experiences for users
- Reduce conflict between different user groups

### Workforce Development

FHWA supports the development of initiatives that enhance workforce development, ability, and diversity in key transportation sectors and disciplines. RTP funding can add to the success of workforce development for young people in economically distressed areas.

One example is the Ancestral Lands program, which provides Native Americans with paid opportunities to serve communities and ecosystems, partnered with personal and professional development. There are 18 different Ancestral Lands programs operating both nationally and on the local level which are rooted in the culture and heritage of local tribal communities.



Rock Creek Park Bridge Project with young workers from the District of Columbia; photo from Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association has been working with the National Park Service in DC for over 15 years to maintain trails in Rock Creek Park. A recent project employed youth and young adults, ages 15-24, in designing bridges and developing plans to complete the construction and restoration projects.

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The Arizona Conservation Corps Mogollon Rim Ancestral Lands Trail Crew; photo from Arizona Conservation Corps

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Youth Service and Conservation Corps are Federal, State, and local programs that engage youth and young adults in service and projects. Corps members receive training and mentoring, a modest stipend, and opportunities for education and career preparation. Public agencies benefit because Corps provide cost-effective labor, and also provide training for a pool of potential employees to work in conservation and outdoor recreation.

Federal transportation law allows States to sole-source contracts and cooperative agreements to qualified youth service and conservation corps for recreational trail projects. Youth corps projects are usually administered through State resource agencies that have ongoing relationships with youth corps organizations.

# Annual Achievement Awards for RTP-funded Projects

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), a federation of national trail-related organizations, hosts an annual achievement awards program to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program.

The winners are recognized each year in Washington, DC during the American Recreation Coalition's Great Outdoors Month in early June. The awards are part of the Coalition's ongoing effort to build awareness of RTP accomplishments. Award winners are selected from projects nominated by public agencies, State administrators, organizations, or project sponsors.



Utah Conservation Corps Bike Crew used cargo bicycles as their sole means of transportation to trail work sites; photo from Utah Conservation Corps

✳️ *2016 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*

## Award Categories

**Maintenance and Rehabilitation:** maintaining, repairing damage to, or upgrading the quality of a trail.

**Construction and Design:** planning and building a trail, portions of a trail, or trail-related facilities.

**Public-Private Partnerships Enhancing Public Lands Access and Use:** facilitating and/or encouraging cost-effective partnerships between public and private entities, especially to increase access to and use of Federal, State, and local public lands, including parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

**Community Linkage:** providing and/or enhancing opportunities for trail-based recreation and transportation within or near local communities.

**Education and Communication:** enhancing trail use and enjoyment through increased environmental awareness, promotion of safety, and encouragement of trail-related outdoor recreation.

**Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing:** facilitating and/or encouraging the use of a trail corridor by more than one type of trail enthusiast, particularly those enthusiasts that do not ordinarily share trails or trail-related facilities.

**Accessibility Enhancement:** facilitating and/or encouraging access to trail-related recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

**Youth Conservation/Service Corps and Community Outreach:** making effective use of the services and skills of qualified youth conservation or service corps to construct and/or maintain trails.

**State Awards:** winners for Outstanding State Program and Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee are chosen each year by the Awards Committee of the National Association of State Park Directors.

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Read more about the CRT Annual Achievement Awards and see details of the projects that have been recognized since 2000: <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRT-awards-by-state.html>

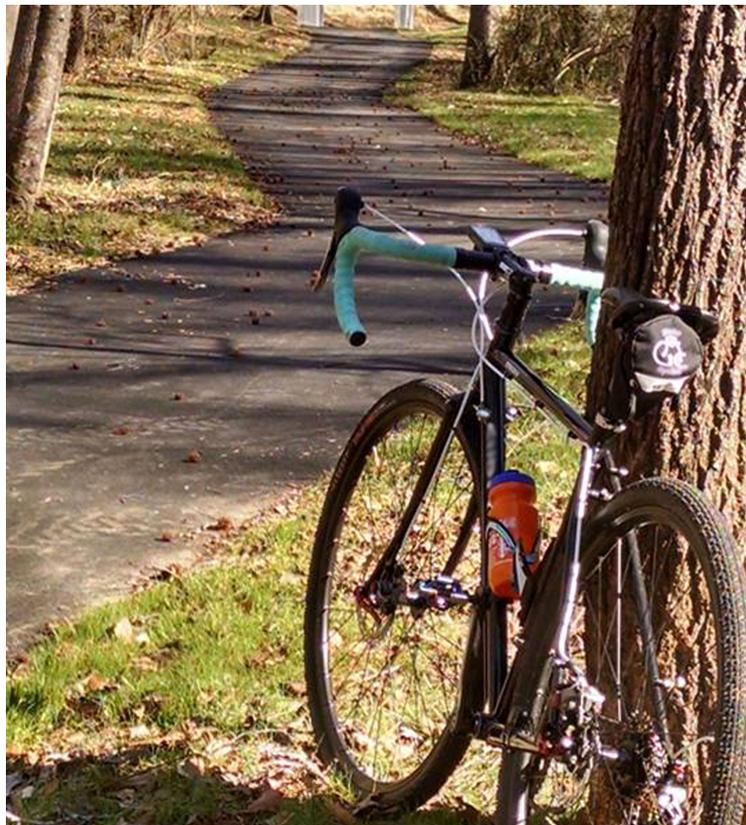
Read more about the Coalition for Recreational Trails: <http://www.funoutdoors.com>

# Conclusions

RTP funding has been an essential ingredient in creating and improving over 22,900 trail-related projects nationwide, including urban greenways, nature centers, and horse, hiking, mountain bike, and motorized trails, as well as snow and water routes. States continue to add miles of trails as well as needed maintenance and improvements through grants to local project sponsors each year.

A review of RTP-funded projects also reveals many benefits to employment, environmental education, health, resource conservation, and community development. The program has encouraged productive cooperation among agencies and jurisdictions, facilitated healthy outdoor recreation, and supported economic activity in communities.

Like other Highway Trust Fund programs, the RTP provides benefits to virtually every county in the United States. It is also the foundation for State trail programs across the country. Every State has established its own initiatives to develop and improve trails for all users. The RTP Database and



Woodruff Greenway Trail, South Carolina, shows how strong partnerships can create quality outdoor recreation facilities; photo from Spartanburg County Parks Department.

✳️ *2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*



Talisi Riverwalk Trail Extension in Tallassee, Alabama, was designed to encourage more walking and biking, as well as for better accessibility; photo from City of Tallassee.

✳️ *2017 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner*

Image Library have many examples of RTP-funded projects gathered from all States and the District of Columbia, categorized by State and by permissible use, that demonstrate the value of these projects.

RTP funding is highly leveraged by community and State funds, as well as contributions from organizations and businesses. Of the projects completed between 1993 and 2017, total RTP funding was nearly \$1.3 billion with additional matching funds of \$888 million, showing that RTP dollars were matched by 75 percent with other funds. Further program efficiencies are seen by the use of youth conservation and service corps working in cooperation with private contractors, agency or community staff, and volunteers.

In every State, equestrians and cyclists, hikers and snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts and paddlers have joined in support of local as well as regional efforts to meet the trail needs of all users. Because the funds are distributed for both motorized and nonmotorized trail work, all trail interests have incentives to cooperate and learn from each other.



Camping facility for paddlers along the Alabama Scenic River Trail; photo from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

# Resources

For more information on many topics related to RTP funding as well as technical resources on trails of all types, see the following resources.

## Recreational Trails Program

Recreational Trails Program Database: <http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>

The Recreational Trails Program website for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

FHWA guidance and policies for RTP: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/)

For policies and funding in every State, see the State RTP Administrators List to find program contacts and websites:  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/rtpstate.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm)

The Coalition for Recreational Trails gives awards each year for outstanding projects funded through State RTP grants:  
<http://www.americantrails.org/rtp/crtawards.html>

## Accessible trails

FHWA guidance to provide best practices for trail accessibility, and trail design, construction, and maintenance:  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/accessibility\\_guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/accessibility_guidance/)

USDA Forest Service trail and outdoor facility accessibility guidelines: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/>

More resources on accessible trails: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html>

## Trail planning, development, and management

For many resources on trail planning, design, construction, management, accessibility, funding, training, for both motorized and nonmotorized trails, see the National Trails Training Partnership Resources and Library on the American Trails website:  
<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html>

## Youth and Conservation Corps

FHWA Youth Workforce Development Resources:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/guidance/youth\\_workforcedev.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/youth_workforcedev.cfm)

FHWA Youth Service and Conservation Corps Questions & Answers: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qayscc.cfm>

A guide to transportation funding programs for service and conservation corps; "Conservation Corps and Transportation: Making the Connection" (pdf 1.7 mb): <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/CorpsandTransportation.pdf>

More about opportunities with Corps nationwide at The Corps Network: <http://www.corpsnetwork.org>

## Technical Assistance

Recreational Trails Program Database Website:  
<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>

Technical Questions:  
Call the number or send an email to the address below.

RTP Database Technical Assistance Section  
American Trails  
P.O. Box 491797  
Redding, CA 96049-1797  
(530) 605-4395  
[support@recreationaltrailsinfo.org](mailto:support@recreationaltrailsinfo.org)

Website issues:  
Write to [webmaster@recreationaltrailsinfo.org](mailto:webmaster@recreationaltrailsinfo.org).

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