

Trail News, Training, and Resources

March 2021

Irails

National Crosscut and Chainsaw Program

The National Crosscut and Chainsaw Program was created to train smart volunteer and professional sawyers across the nation.



Read more...



Trails Community Appropriations **Recommendations for Federal** Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022

Jointly developed FFY 2022 "asks and justifications" for Federal agency budgets affecting trails and outdoor recreation opportunities. Read more ...

Browse Past Webinars From our Advancing Trails Webinar Series



American Trails is taking a hiatus on releasing new webinars until April 22nd. In the mean time, check out our dozens of past webinars and access free recordings now! Read more ...

Trail Etiquette - What to Do with Horse Poo



Lora Goerlich, American Trails contributor and equestrian expert, shares trail etiquette around horse manure. *Read more...* Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Debuts Top BLM Motorized Recreational Opportunities Website



The BLM's Top Recreation Opportunities Mapping website is designed to provide and promote a greater awareness of recreational opportunities on BLMmanaged public lands. *Read more...*



Trail News and Notes

Click on each article to read more

- (International) Want to Take a Hike? South Africa Now has a One-Stop Platform to Book One of 130 Trails
- (National) Emily Ford Becomes First Woman to Thru-Hike the 1,200-Mile Ice Age Trail in Winter
- (Alabama) Trail to Connect Downtown Birmingham with Avondale Gets Approval
- (Arkansas) Fayetteville Becomes First Internationally Recognized 'Bike City' in US
- (Georgia) BeltLine Officials Need Cash to Finish the Trail Network. What Will it Cost Atlanta?
- (Hawaii) Hikers in Hawaii Who Disobey Signs May Soon Have to Pay for Their Own Rescues
- (Ohio) The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes' "All People's Trail" Lifts Barriers to Nature
- (Texas) Austin Parks to Share Findings of Trail Safety, Mobility Study

Trail Policy Landscape

Here are the bills we are tracking on Capital Hill

• The House of Representatives has Passed the Outdoors for All Act! The Outdoors for All Act will help underserved communities access parks and public lands, protect areas sacred to Indigenous peoples, ensure clean and safe drinking water, and promote the outdoor recreation economy.

• Reps Curtis and Welch Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Boost Funding for Recreational Trails

Since 1991 the Recreational Trails Program has provided funding to states to develop and maintain outdoor recreational trails, allowing millions of Americans and their families to enjoy activities such as off-roading, snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling, and cross-country skiing.

The Parks, Jobs and Equity Act was Introduced in the House by Representatives Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44), Mike Turner (OH-10), and Joe Neguse (CO-2)

The bipartisan bill would dedicate \$500 million to the creation or redevelopment local parks, playgrounds, trails, and green spaces. The pandemic has shown that parks are critical to community health. With local governments and park agency budgets under enormous strain, this funding would protect or create thousands of at-risk jobs while generating \$1.37 billion in economic activity.

• Call on Congress to Support the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act (H.R.5696/S-3391)

Congress should take this opportunity to invest in connecting America's trails, walking and bicycling infrastructure to create an active transportation system for the country. Sens. Ed Markey (D-MA), Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) are the original cosponsors of the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act—a bipartisan bill that creates safe, convenient walking and biking routes in our communities while addressing critical challenges to our economy, climate, health and safety.

• Transit to Trails Act Introduced by Reps. Jimmy Gomez (CA) and Steve Stivers (OH) Sen. Cory Booker (NJ)

The Transit to Trails Act seeks to reduce barriers between people and access to nature. The bill establishes a grant program under the Department of Transportation to provide transportation systems to and from underserved communities and public lands.



Resources and Training

Trail Tools: Power Tools

Though the bulk of trail work involves the use of hand tools, there are occasions where power tools are more efficient. *Read more...*

Photo Gallery: Trails with Two Adjacent Treads

Separate trails in the same corridor provide for different activities. Read more...

Green Schoolyards for All Children

A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that the creation of nature-rich urban environments, including schoolyards with natural play spaces and gardens, can help improve physical and mental health, cognitive skills, creativity, and social bonding. *Read more...*

Training Calendar and Volunteer Opportunities

Check out our *training calendar* for upcoming conferences and events. You can also find volunteer opportunities *here*. If you have an opportunity for us to post, please email *trailhead@americantrails.org*.



Seeking Learning Credits?

American Trails offers learning credits for our Advancing Trails Webinar Series, our International Trails Symposium and Training Institute, and other trail-related conferences, workshops, and webinars. *Read more...*



Featured Trail Industry Manufacturer: Areté Structures, LLC Areté Structures supplies prefabricated truss and I-beam bridges using pultruded fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) materials. Areté trail bridges are the best option for

remote bridge sites, and come in an easy to assemble bridge kit. *Learn more about this company...*

Featured Trail Job: Program Manager, American Hiking Society

The Programs Manager manages the logistics of AHS trail volunteer programs; assists where needed with advocacy programs; builds and maintains strong collaborations and relationships with Alternative Break schools, trail crew leaders, volunteers, partner nonprofits, and the land managers that host our volunteers; and, in collaboration with other staff and external partners takes primary responsibility for designing crew leader training and volunteer program evaluation. The Programs Manager not only has great attention to detail in managing logistics but exhibits empathy and excellent interpersonal skills in relationship building. *Read more...*



LOOKING FOR TRAIL JOBS? CLICK HERE

Advancing Trails Webinar Series and Learning Credit Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE: Free April Webinars

We record all of our webinars which are available for download at any time in our online store. Each webinar also offers a closed caption transcript and learning credits are offered for most. *View a list of all of our upcoming and archived webinars...*

• April 22 – Effective Programs to Improve Access and Use of Trails for Youth

from Under-Resourced Communities

• April 29 – The Assessing Trails: LiDAR Assisted Trail Topography Evaluation (LATTE)

Additional Learning Credit Opportunities

American Trails is partnering with the following organizations and their virtual conferences to offer learning credits. Click on each link to register and learn more.

California Trails and Greenways Conference

- DATE: April 14-16, 2021
- TIME: 8:00am-2:30pm Pacific
- ORGANIZATION: California State Parks and California Trails Conference Foundation
- COST: \$75 early bird (\$100 regular) (paid to CA Trails) + \$15 for learning credits per webinar (paid to American Trails) Learn more and register here...

River Management Symposium

- DATE: April 12-15, 2021
- TIME: 8:00am-2:00pm Pacific
- ORGANIZATION: River Management Society
- COST: \$249 for RMS members early bird (\$279 regular) or \$279 for nonmembers early bird (\$309 regular) (paid to CA Trails) + \$15 for learning credits per webinar (paid to American Trails) Learn more and register here...



Sponsor an American Trails Webinar to Reach 500 to 1,100 Attendees

We plan to continue to offer increased options for training via our Advancing Trails Webinar Series in place of the many conferences that have been canceled/postponed this year and are continuing to hold one webinar per week, when possible. It is also our intent to continue to make all of these webinars FREE to the public, but we need your sponsorship dollars to help make this possible!

All webinars noted below have **partner** sponsorships available (\$250) but only the ones marked with an asterisk (*) have **public** sponsorships available (\$3,000 – listed as main sponsor with more recognition). We added MORE benefits for public sponsors in 2021. Email *candace@americantrails.org* to become a sponsor today and learn more.

2021 Webinars (With Dates):

- April 22* Effective Programs to Improve Access and Use of Trails for Youth from Under-Resourced Communities
- April 29* Assessing Trails: LiDAR Assisted Trail Topography Evaluation (LATTE) (Partner sponsor Voss Signs)
- May 13, 2021 Integrating Trails into Park Planning *(Sponsored by SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism)*
- June 17 2021 Equestrian Trail Design and Best Practices From Backcountry to Urban Edge Settings: An Update *(Sponsored by Tennessee Valley Authority)*
- July 22, 2021 Return on Investment (In partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association) (Sponsored by SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism)

2021 Webinars (Dates TBD):

- Estimating Trail Costs and Return on Investment (In partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association) (Sponsored by SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism)
- Wheels and Legs: How Well Do They Mix? Addressing Nonmotorized Trail User Conflicts*
- Dealing with Trail Maintenance Backlog Forum* (Partner sponsor Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado)
- Policy and Trails*
- Railroads and Right-of-Ways*
- Trail Ambassador Programs^{*}
- Equity/Access* (Co-hosting with Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals) (4 webinars in September 2021)

We welcome your suggestions to host your own webinar or sponsor a topic of interest (we can assist with finding presenters)!

