



TRAIL TRACKS

August 2023



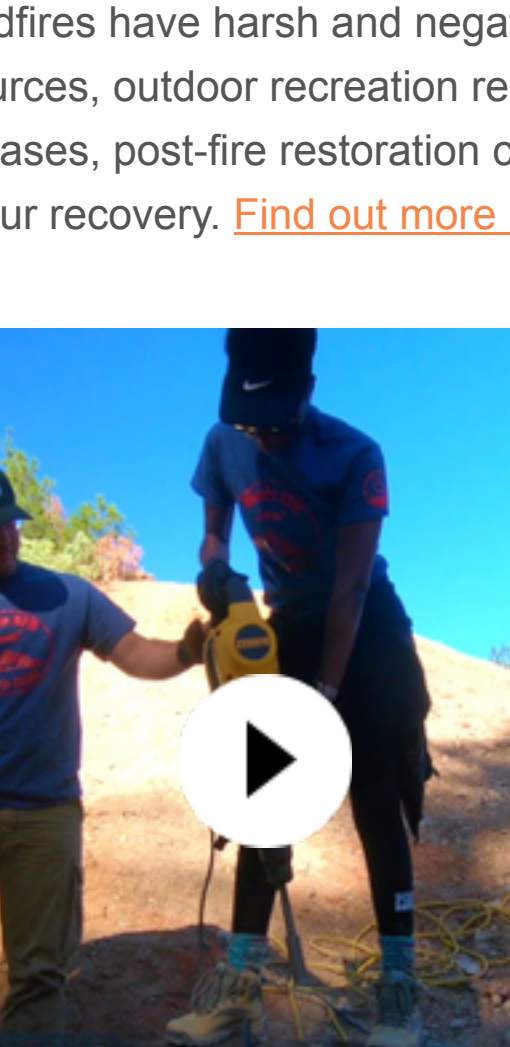
Wildland fire in Klamath National Forest, Yreka, California (2017); Photo by Matt Howard

Why Trails Matter: Resilience to Wildfire

With the smoke from the wildfires in Canada affecting folks in the Midwest all the way to New York this summer, wildfire is no longer only a “Western” issue.

Record-setting heat has made wildfires more likely and exacerbated their impact, from the backcountry to urban areas. There is no denying that extreme weather events and wildfire smoke can affect everyone. Trails connect suburban and rural communities to wild places, and they can play an important role in landscape resilience, as wildfire becomes more frequent in the wildland-urban interface where homes are increasingly being built. A trail system can be part of a wildfire management strategy, and they may serve as emergency egress routes before or during a fire. After the fire, trails in burnt-over landscapes may help visitors learn about fire recovery and the impact of wildfire on watershed health. This article is intended to help you as a trail manager, designer, or trail steward think about wildfire and anticipate its effects.

[Find out more](#)



In the Path of Fire

The Carr Fire, which occurred in northern California in 2018, was one of the numerous wildfires that caused immense destruction in the United States. Though many trails have reopened since this article was published, the impact of the fire is still visible to those residing in the Redding region. [Find out more »](#)



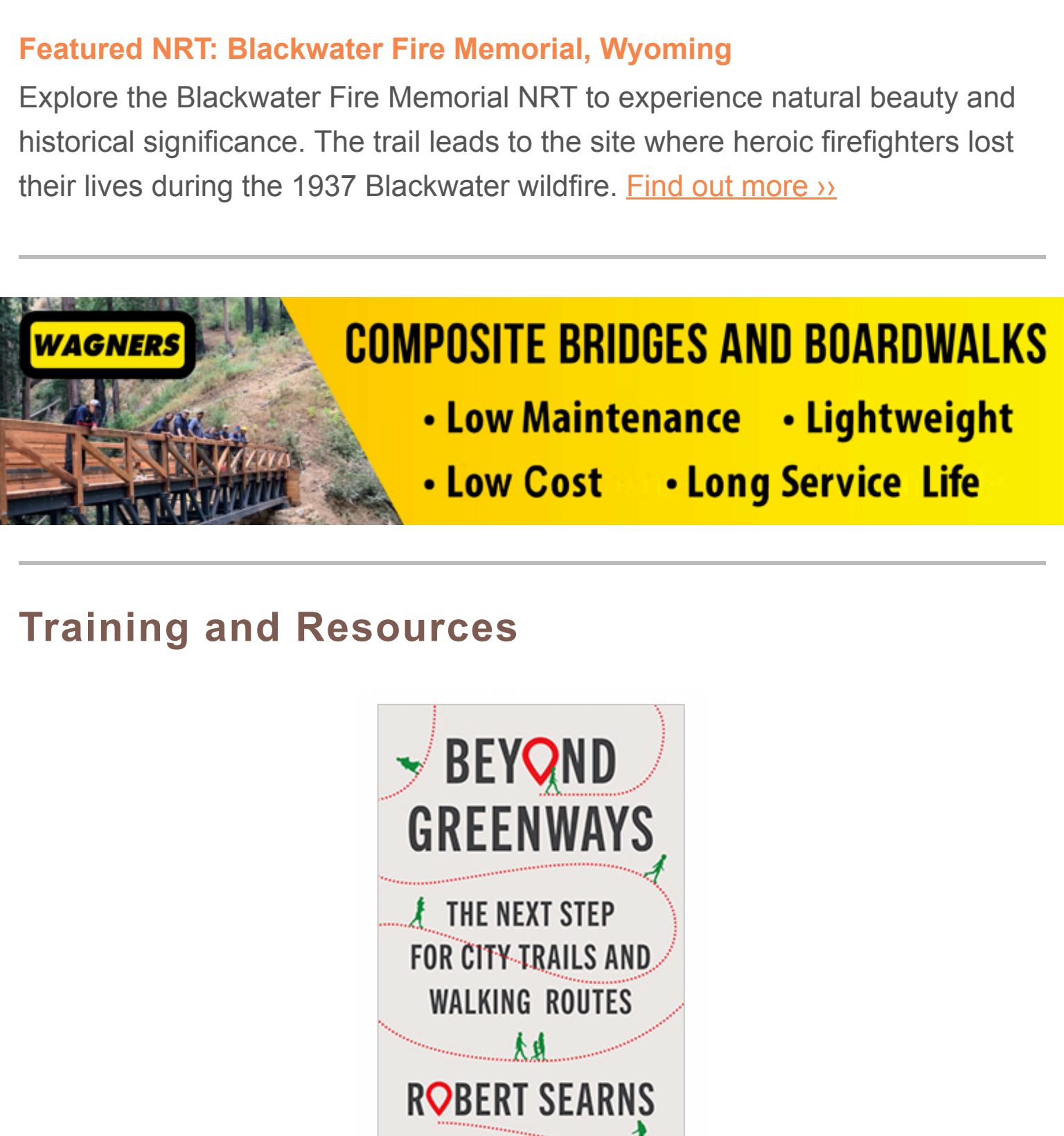
Wildfire Restoration Handbook

Restoration is important, but you and your volunteers' safety and well-being trumps everything. This field guide was created after extensive fire restoration implementation and monitoring throughout the state of Colorado. [Find out more »](#)



Eight Important Facts You Should Know About Post-Fire Restoration

Wildfire is a necessary and important part of a natural landscape, but it is undeniable that some wildfires have harsh and negative impacts on communities, water resources, outdoor recreation resources, and fish and wildlife habitat. In these cases, post-fire restoration can be crucial to prevent further damage and to spur recovery. [Find out more »](#)

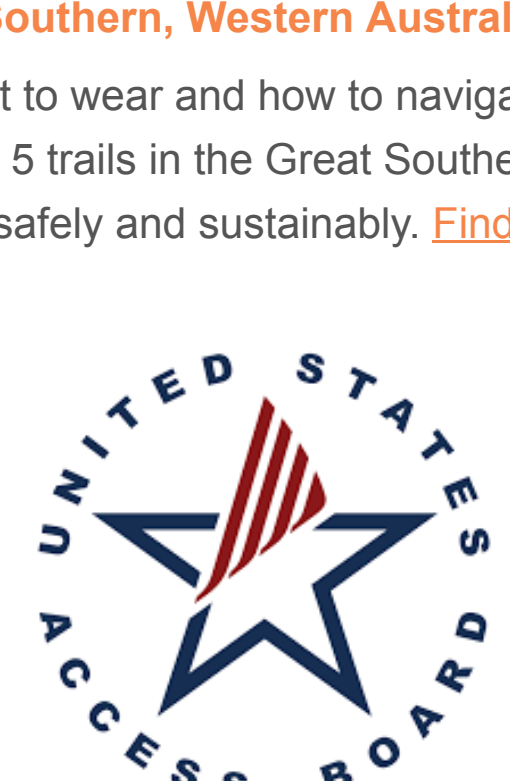


Post Wildfire Off-Highway Vehicle Recovery Alliance (PWORA)

PWORA is a national organization that focuses on protecting and restoring sustainable off-highway vehicle recreation from the damaging impacts of intense wildfires and other natural disasters. [Find out more »](#)

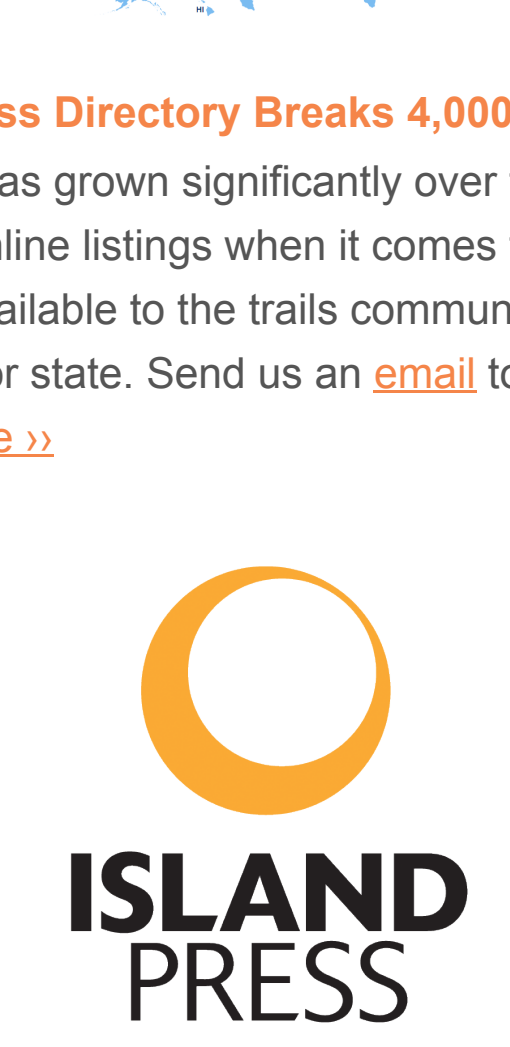


Funding and Legislation



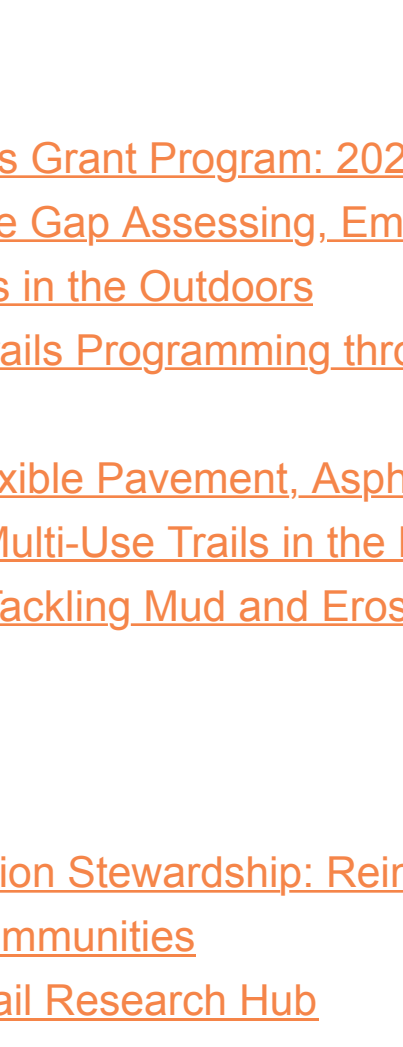
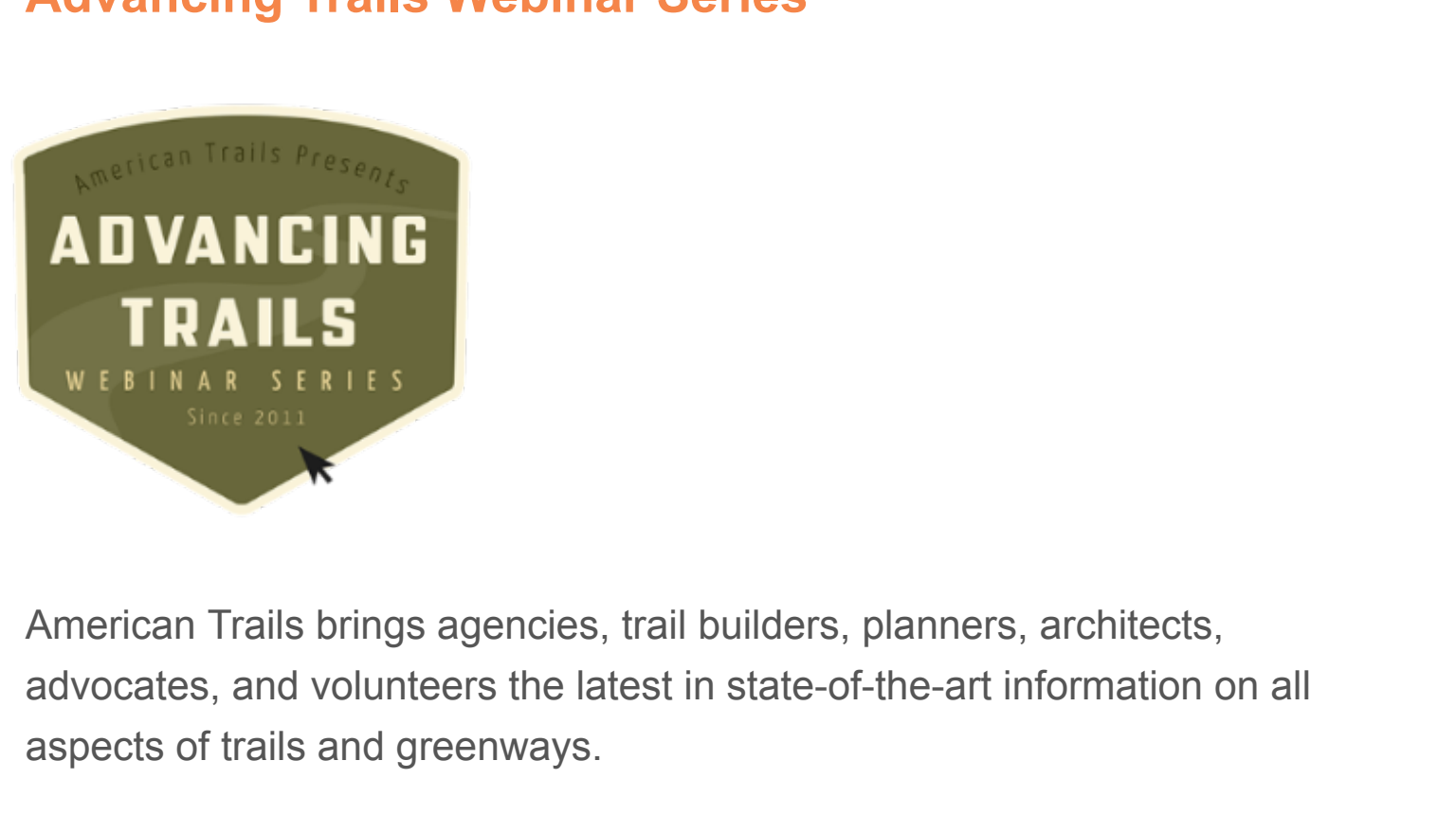
How the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Impacts Wildland Fire

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will provide funds to the National Park Service (NPS) over the next five years to help mitigate and reduce wildfire risk, recover from wildfires, and increase recruitment and retention of the NPS wildland firefighter workforce through supplemental pay, permanent position conversions, and improvements to health, well-being, and training. [Find out more »](#)

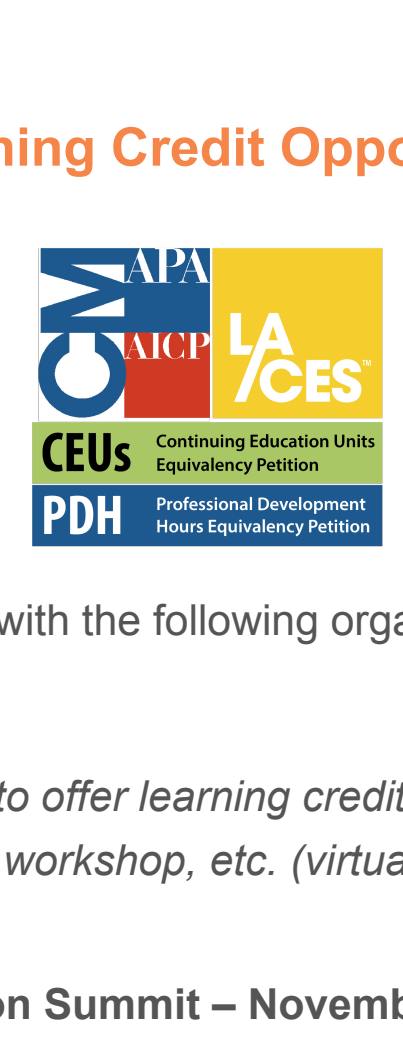


Applications for IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants Open Until Aug 31!

An IMBA Trail Accelerator grant offers awardees a partnership in professional trail planning. Grants awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$30,000. This is a one-to-one matching grant, and applications for the next round of grants are open through August 31. [Find out more »](#)



The National Recreation Trails (NRT) and National Water Trails (NWT) System



NRTs are existing land-based and water-based trails that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities on Federal, State, and local lands in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Over 1,300 of these trails have been designated throughout the nation.

NWTs are a subset of the NRT Program. The NWT System is a network of water trails open to the public to explore and enjoy. The system also serves as a community of water resource managers that benefit from information sharing and collaboration. Currently, 90 NWTs are listed in the NRT database hosted by American Trails.

Apply for designation! Deadline is November 1 of every year. [Find out more »](#)



Featured NRT: Blackwater Fire Memorial, Wyoming

Explore the Blackwater Fire Memorial NRT to experience natural beauty and historical significance. The trail leads to the site where heroic firefighters lost their lives during the 1937 Blackwater wildfire. [Find out more »](#)

Training and Resources

Beyond Greenways Book Available Now!

Out now, *Beyond Greenways: The Next Step for City Trails and Walking Routes* by award-winning urban trail professional and American Trails Emeritus Board Chair, Robert (Bob) Searns, is the authoritative guide on the essentials of accessible city walking trails. Join Bob for his webinar with American Trails on September 28 "[Engaging, Enabling, and Motivating Families and Diverse Trails Users](#)" (and use code WEBINAR for 30% off his book at Island Press).

[Order Here](#)

2023 PNTS National Trails Workshop - November 7-9, 2023

As the only national nonprofit focused on National Scenic and Historic Trails, Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is a collective voice, convener, resource, and hub of information that champions a vibrant National Trails System for all to enjoy. PNTS was founded by many of the nonprofit trail organizations that make up our membership to help trail managers, advocates, and stewards connect and work together to advance shared goals for the National Trails System. [Find out more »](#)



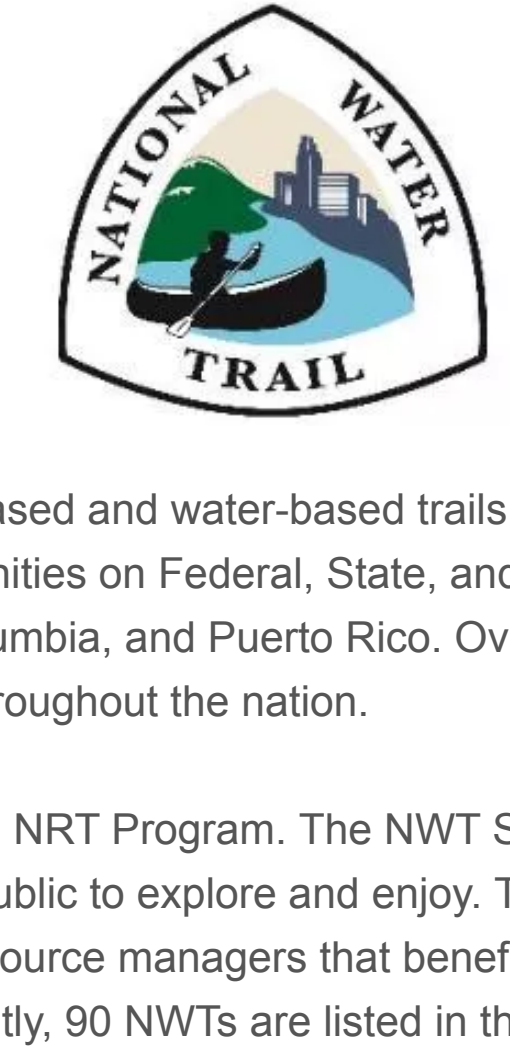
Hike Safe in the Great Southern, Western Australia

Get essential tips on what to wear and how to navigate through any weather while hiking on grade 4 & 5 trails in the Great Southern region. These 10 videos will help you hike safely and sustainably. [Find out more »](#)



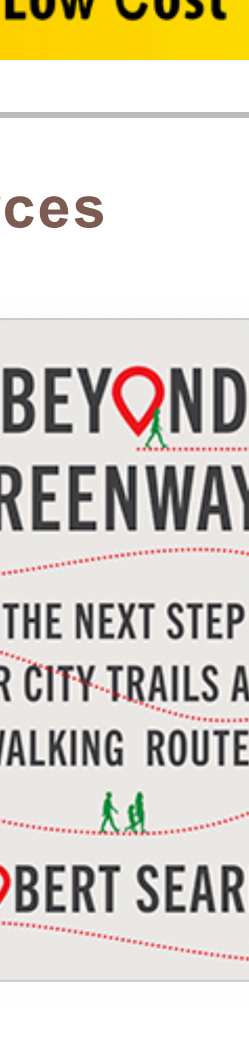
U.S. Access Board Issues Final Rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines

The Access Board has published new guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) that address access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. These guidelines also review shared use paths, which are designed primarily for use by bicyclists and pedestrians for transportation and recreation purposes. [Find out more »](#)



American Trails Business Directory Breaks 4,000 Listings

Our Business Directory has grown significantly over the past few years and provides free and paid online listings when it comes to organizations and their products and services available to the trails community. Find trail-related businesses by category or state. Send us an [email](#) to get your company added or updated. [Find out more »](#)



Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Island Press

Island Press works to stimulate, shape, and communicate the information that is essential for solving environmental problems. With more than 1,000 titles in print, it is the nation's leading publisher of books on environmental issues. [Find out more »](#)



Advancing Trails Webinar Series



American Trails brings agencies, trail builders, planners, architects, advocates, and volunteers the latest in state-of-the-art information on all aspects of trails and greenways.

All webinars are recorded and can be accessed for free via our [online store](#) at any time. Recordings of past webinars are also being added to our [YouTube channel](#) on a weekly basis.

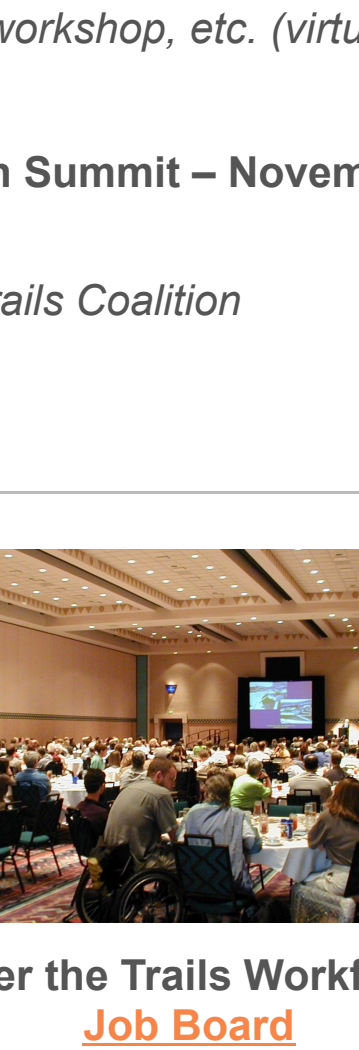
Free August Webinars

- August 3: [Legacy Trails Grant Program: 2024 Pre-Application Overview](#)
- August 10: [Bridging the Gap Assessing, Empowering, and Engaging People with Disabilities in the Outdoors](#)
- August 17: [Creative Trails Programming through Public-Private Partnerships](#)
- August 24: [Porous Flexible Pavement, Asphalt, or Porous Asphalt: Lessons Learned for Multi-Use Trails in the District of Columbia](#)
- August 31: [Got Mud: Tackling Mud and Erosion on Equestrian Trails](#)

Free Future Webinars

- September 7: [Destination Stewardship: Reimagining the Purpose of Tourism in Outdoor Communities](#)
- September 14: [The Trail Research Hub](#)
- September 21: [How Trails Support Healthy Aging for All](#)
- September 28: [Engaging, Enabling, and Motivating Families and Diverse Trails Users](#)
- October 26: [Measuring Our Success in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- November 30: [Digital Transformation of Trail Management and Monitoring](#)
- December 14: [Encouraging Indigenous Participation in Trail Management and Interpretation](#)
- December 21: [Outdoor Electric Assist Devices: Opportunity or Opposition](#)
- January 11: [Risk Management During Trail Construction](#)
- January 25: [The Path to Mental Health: Using Trails to Equip Healthy Communities](#)

Additional Free Learning Credit Opportunities



American Trails is partnering with the following organization(s) to offer [free learning credits](#) to attendees.

Send us an [email](#) if you wish to offer learning credits for FREE to your attendees for your conference, webinar, workshop, etc. (virtual or in-person).

Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit – November 2-4, 2023 – Coos Bay-North Bend, Oregon

In partnership with Oregon Trails Coalition

[Learn more »](#)



Enter the Trails Workforce Job Board

Build Your Skills Training Calendar

Trail Workers of America Group Join Here