



TRAIL TRACKS

November 2023

Why Trails Matter: Catching Up with Chuck Flink



By Cathy Corlett, Director of Strategic Communications and Trail Fund Director, American Trails

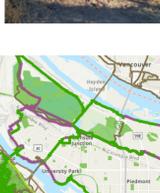
On a sunny fall morning, I sat down for a Zoom chat with Chuck Flink. Chuck is the original chair of American Trails, a landscape architect, and a professor at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. We talked about the landscape architecture profession, the state of the trails world, and what he has been up to since the March 2020 release of his book, *The Greenway Imperative*.

[Find out more](#)



Bob Walker Receives Montana Trails Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award

Bob Walker, board member of American Trails and current Chair of the Montana Trails Coalition, member of a wide range of individuals and organizations working to protect and enhance access to our backcountry and to community opportunities. Bob's entire personal and professional life has revolved around an appreciation of our natural surroundings and a dedication to protect and enhance those surroundings for people to enjoy and appreciate. [Find out more](#)



2023 Recreational Trails Program Achievement Awards

The Coalition for Recreational Trails is excited to announce its 2023 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program. We invite you to nominate an outstanding project and/or encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination. **Deadline for nominations is November 17.** [Find out more](#)



Help Fill the Gaps in Portland's 40-Mile Loop Trail

The 40-mile Loop is a nonprofit that brings together government agencies to hasten the development of paths and trails that make a loop (hence the name) around the Portland metro area. As cool as the idea is, it's not cool that this dreamy loop is still incomplete. Find a gap and make it your personal mission to help close it. [Find out more](#)



The Heart of Texas

Great Springs Project is working to create a greenway of protected lands between Austin and San Antonio over the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. Great Springs Project works to unify existing local efforts to address the most critical water, land, wildlife, and public health challenges facing the Central Texas region. [Find out more](#)



Philadelphia's Circuit Trails

Greater Philadelphia is the proud home of the Circuit Trails, a vast regional network of hundreds of miles of multi-use trails that is growing in size each year. The Circuit connects our local communities, providing endless opportunities for recreating and commuting. So whether you bike it, walk it, or run it, the point is — just enjoy it. [Find out more](#)



The Benefits of Walking: A Conversation with Shane O'Mara

Discover how walking positively impacts our muscles, posture, and overall physical health. Mr. O'Mara reveals how walking plays a vital role in protecting and repairing organs while potentially slowing down the aging process of our brains. But the benefits don't stop there. Click on the image to purchase the book, or click to [view video](#)



Funding and Legislation



Grant Opportunity: Trails Capacity Grant Program

American Trails administers the Trails Capacity Program and invests in building nationwide trails community capacity by funding trail stewardship training, maintenance, research, and education. This grant program targets funding for small local trail projects that engage the community and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users. **The application portal opens on December 4.** [Find out more](#)

Together we can build our collective trail capacity. Make a difference by contributing today. [Donate here](#)



Grant Opportunity: Legacy Trails Grant Program

UPDATE: Required Match Now Only 20%

American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to restore the Legacy Trails Grant Program. We will be looking to fund projects that restore fish and aquatic organism passage, improve trail resiliency, preserve trail access, decommission unauthorized trails, and convert unneeded Forest Service roads to trails. [Find out more](#)

The application portal closes on December 1. [Read the program FAQ.](#)

[Apply Now](#)



Grant Opportunity: Wood Innovations Program

This open funding opportunity comes through the Forest Service's three key grant programs to support the forest products economy. The Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Grant is due **December 1**. The Wood Innovations Grant and the Community Wood Grant's application deadline to apply is **December 15**. [Find out more](#)



Grant Opportunity: Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) Funding Program

WSP measures the Forest Service's accomplishments in wilderness stewardship. This information guides the Forest Service and its partner organizations in setting performance goals and identifying funding needs. **Applications are due by November 30.** [Find out more](#)



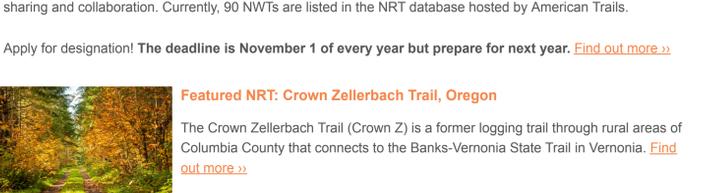
Grant Opportunity: Matching Awards Program (MAP)

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is excited to announce changes to its flagship competitive grant program, the MAP. The adjustments are a result of over two years of work to collect feedback to align the program with current National Forest System needs, and the NFF strategic plan. [Find out more](#)

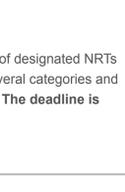


Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants Program

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the 2024 cycle of the Every Kid Outdoors Small Grants Program supports the needs of non-profits and schools that connect elementary school-aged youth to public parks, lands, and waters. Funding is available up to \$5,000. **The application deadline is November 30.** [Find out more](#)



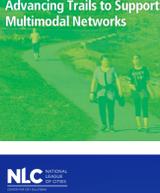
The National Recreation Trails (NRT) and National Water Trails (NWT) System



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! **The deadline is November 1 of every year but prepare for next year.** [Find out more](#)



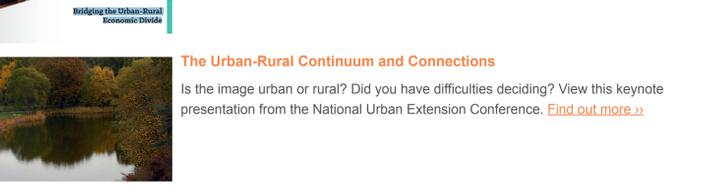
Featured NRT: Crown Zellerbach Trail, Oregon

The Crown Zellerbach Trail (Crown Z) is a former logging trail through rural areas of Columbia County that connects to the Banks-Vernonia State Trail in Vernonia. [Find out more](#)



Submit Your Photos for the NRT Photo Contest

American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated NRTs across the country. Our annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website. **The deadline is December 15 of each year.** [Find out more](#)



Training and Resources



Advancing Trails to Support Multimodal Networks

This info brief provides a fresh look at the current state of practice for trail development, reflecting new research and showing the growing applications of trails in every type of environment and community. [Find out more](#)



Bridging the Urban-Rural Economic Divide

Urban and rural labels should not limit economic success. Expanding the definition of the "urban-rural divide" beyond population and density measures to account for economic interconnectedness can help develop effective economic development strategies. Failing to think beyond conventional notions of "urban" and "rural" could limit sustainable growth. [Find out more](#)



The Urban-Rural Continuum and Connections

Is the image urban or rural? Did you have difficulties deciding? View this keynote presentation from the National Urban Extension Conference. [Find out more](#)



Join these World Trails Network Presentations

Indigenous Ways: Join this Zoom meeting on **November 16** to discuss the indigenous communities related to trails. [Register here](#)

Artists Talking Walking: Join the World Trails Network's Arts & Culture Task Team for a curated program of online conversations exploring the role walking artists play in shaping, investigating, and celebrating trail culture. [Find out more](#)



Don't Miss 2024's Only International Trails Conference!

The Professional TrailBuilders (PTBA) Sustainable Trails Conference will be held March 19-21 in Lanier Islands, Georgia, with pre and post-conference workshops. Registration will be limited to 300 attendees - so don't wait! Sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities are also available. Registration is now open! [Find out more](#)

Call for Presentations: Interested in presenting at this event? PTBA is seeking proposals for presentations that share best practices and promote technical skill development in trail construction, maintenance, assessment, design, project implementation, partnerships, and trail-related policy. **The deadline to submit is December 1.** [Submit a presentation](#)



SORP Accepting Nominations for Individual Service and Project Excellence Awards

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Awards to be presented at the National Outdoor Recreation Conference in South Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Nevada from May 2024. The awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in the field of outdoor recreation planning, management, research, and policy. The two awards that are open to the public for nominations are Individual Service Award and Project Excellence Award. [Find out more](#)



Featured Business Directory Advertiser: DOGIPOT

Dog owners worldwide are now reminded to pick up after their pets with the help of friendly and accessible DOGIPOT® Pet Stations, complete with SMART Litter Pick Up Bags™ and Trash Receptacles. [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 November Webinars

- November 2: [Approvals, Permits, and Compliance: Navigating the Regulatory Waters from Trail Plan Through Construction](#)
- November 16: [Water Management on Legacy Trails: The SET \(Sustainable, Effective, Traversable\) Standard](#)
- November 30: [Digital Transformation of Trail Management and Monitoring](#)

Free Future Webinars

- December 7: [Trail Planning and Design: Foundations of Success](#)
- 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 18: [The Third Mode: Bonus Chapters](#)
- January 25: [The Path to Mental Health: Using Trails to Equip Healthy Communities](#)
- February 8: [Systemic Condition Analysis and Management for Multi-Use Trails](#)

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).

California Trails and Greenways Conference – April 30-May 3, 2024 – North Lake Tahoe/Olympic Valley, California

In partnership with the California Trails Conference Foundation

[Learn more](#)

National Outdoor Recreation Conference – May 6-9, 2024 – South Lake Tahoe/Stateline, Nevada

In partnership with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

[Learn more](#)

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Trail Workers of America [Join Online Group Here](#)