



TRAIL TRACKS

April 2024



Stack of Celebrate Trails Day 2023 Commemorative Wristbands on Chief Lodge Trail, Alabama. Photo by DeForest Tuggle

MORE TRAILS. BETTER TRAILS. Be a Good Steward

On the fourth Saturday of every April, Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) invites everyone to get outside for Celebrate Trails Day, a springtime celebration of America's trails and trail networks. Celebrate Trails Day is more than a day outside. It's an opportunity to grow awareness and appreciation for all the ways that trails make a difference for people, places, and the planet every day, so we can build more support to create, connect and maintain trails in every neighborhood in America.

The maintenance and sustainability of America's multi-use trails can be attributed largely to volunteers and stewardship groups who leverage resources and networks—local, state, governmental and other—to maintain many trails across the country.

Check out [this list of resources](#) by American Trails to help build, support, or expand a local trail stewardship network in your area.

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Funding and Legislation...

This section provides updates on legislation, funding, and public input related to trail preservation and enhancing the outdoor experience.



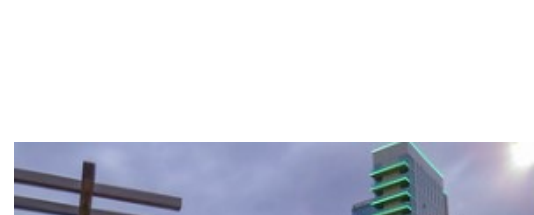
Grants for Trails: Finding, Applying, and Managing

Brian Carpenter, Outdoor Grants Manager for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office presents an introduction to grant funding for trails: how to find, apply for, and manage grants. [Find out more >>](#)



Trail Stewardship Partners Application Deadline Extended

NWSA's [Trail Stewardship Partners Funding Program](#) applications for maintenance projects on all flavors of National Forest System Trails (motorized, nonmotorized, equestrian, hiking, biking) are being **accepted through April 26**. [Find out more >>](#)



Action Alert: 2024 North American Trail Sector Survey Deadline April 30

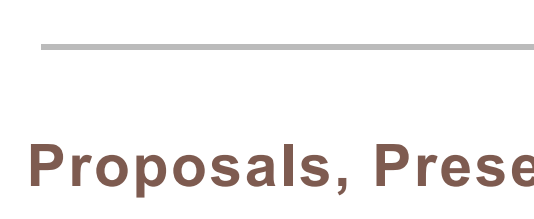
American Trails is partnering with Trans Canada Trail to launch the inaugural [North American Trail Sector Survey](#). The results of this survey will inform the trail community across North America about the current health of trails, trail systems, and trail organizations, identify pressure points and obstacles for growth, and arm advocates with the data they need to make the case for trails in their region.

If you manage, build, maintain, or plan trails, please take this important survey. **Deadline April 30!** [Find out more >>](#)



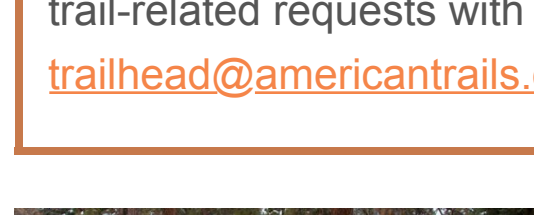
Apply for Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIP) Funding

This unique program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, strategically invests in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, accelerating local and regional plans to create safe and convenient walking and biking routes to everyday destinations and to fill gaps between communities. Applicants must submit their applications through [grants.gov](#). **Applications are due by Monday, June 17, 11:59 p.m. EST.** [Find out more >>](#)



Five Reasons to Get Outside on Trails This Spring

On Celebrate Trails Day, Rails to Trails Conservancy calls on America to walk, bike and be active outside to showcase the joy and impact of trails. [Find out more >>](#)



Working with Federal Land Managers to Fund Trails on Federal Lands

Join recreation staff from the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Regional Offices to learn about the different colors of federal funds that can be utilized for trails and related amenities. Learn more about how to work with local district staff to get trails projects on priority lists and how to pursue Cost Share Agreements for stewardship partners to participate in the work. [Find out more >>](#)

Proposals, Presenters, and Awards Requests...

Are you looking for speakers, presenters, or award nominees for an upcoming conference? Share your trail-related requests with American Trails to be included in an upcoming newsletter. Send requests to trailhead@americantrails.org.



Presentations Requested for the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit

The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit Planning Committee is accepting session proposals for the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit in partnership with the Oregon Trails Summit. The Summit will be held December 5th-7th at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon, and surrounding areas. We are welcoming proposals for short presentations, one-hour breakout sessions, longer-form workshops, field trips, tours, and in-field training. **The deadline for proposals is May 31.** [Find out more >>](#)



Great Redwood Trail Draft Master Plan Released

Community engagement is essential to historic multi-use trail development. The public comment period for the draft plan is **open now until June 3**. Members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback and participate in the planning process by submitting comments and/or attending community events related to the trail project. [Find out more >>](#)

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Resources...

The [American Trails Resource Library](#) is a central hub of resource links, documents, tools, and best practices that are essential for the development of services and capabilities needed to improve effective information sharing within the trails community. Search for resources by category or by using keywords.



Destination Stewardship: Reimagining the Purpose of Tourism in Outdoor Communities

Learn about [Mountain IDEAL's](#) destination stewardship and how it has been a transformative model to improve quality of life attributes, enhance visitor experience, and safeguard a sense of place in outdoor communities. You can also watch a free Advancing Trails Webinar on destination stewardship. [View this webinar >>](#)



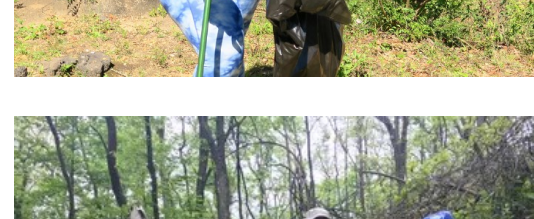
Improve Your Volunteer Stewardship Toolbox

From our American Trails Advancing Trails Webinar archive, learn from three organizations about the tools and resources available to help you start, expand, or enhance your outdoor stewardship volunteer program, achieve your goals, and provide exceptional service to land managers. [Find out more >>](#)



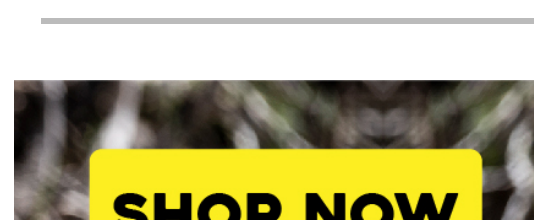
National River Cleanup Organizer Handbook

American Rivers makes it easy for you to get involved. This National River Cleanup Handbook will provide all the information you need to organize a river cleanup. [Find out more >>](#)



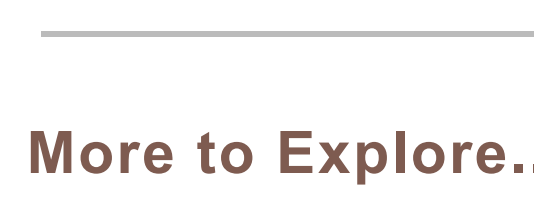
OSI Guide to Independent Stewardship for Trails

This training program has been designed to educate volunteers on the basics of trail maintenance. It aims to equip groups of three or fewer individuals with the necessary skills to perform routine trail maintenance tasks with minimal supervision and coordination. This training is beneficial to local, state, and federal land management agencies since it allows participants to gain the skills required to carry out necessary trail maintenance work independently. [Find out more >>](#)



Trail Etiquette - What to do with Horse Poo

Lora Goerliche, American Trails contributor and equestrian expert, shares trail etiquette around horse manure. [Find out more >>](#)



Trash on Trails

Trash belongs in garbage cans, dumpsters, and landfills. It does not belong in parking lots, along roadsides, in school yards, or on lawns. But for some reason, it's especially offensive when found along a nature trail. Would you want to walk on a trail filled with empty water bottles and crumpled pieces of trash? The answer to this is likely not. [Find out more >>](#)



Volunteer Stewardship Tools

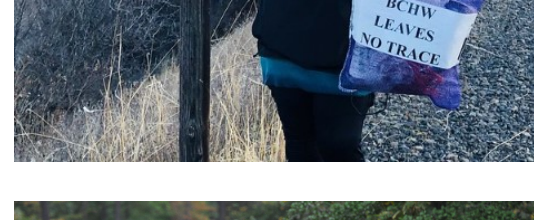
Managing volunteers to achieve high-quality trail stewardship work for land managers is difficult. Explore the tools and resources available to you that will help you start, expand, or enhance your outdoor stewardship volunteer program, achieve your goals, and provide exceptional service to land managers. [Find out more >>](#)

SHOP NOW

TOUGH TRAILS NEED TOUGH TOOLS.

More to Explore...

Check out these external links that provide valuable context to this month's topics.



Free Courses on Leave No Trace Principles

Gain knowledge, show your care, protect the planet. Leave No Trace offers three free online courses. Start with the 101 Course and expand your outdoor ethics, then follow up with the Backcountry course. Do you have stock with you? Learn the ins and outs of stock use in the outdoors. [Find out more >>](#)



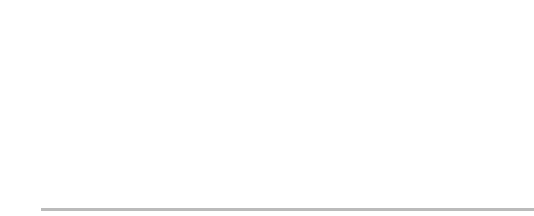
Celebrate Trails Day Interactive Map

Searching for ways to participate in [Celebrate Trails Day](#)? Explore Rails to Trails Conservancy's (RTC) interactive map to see how trails are being celebrated around the country, check out some of the events RTC is spotlighting, get ideas to plan your outing, and tune in for [RTC's virtual event series](#) to get inspired for the big day! [Find out more >>](#)



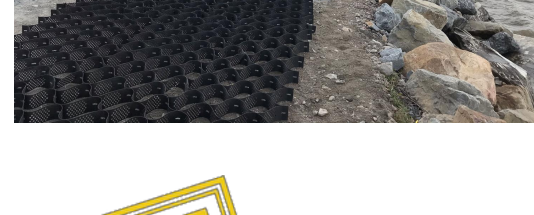
Six Ways to Be a Good Steward on Celebrate Trails Day (and Every Day)

Celebrate nature and the outdoors while demonstrating stewardship on our nation's trails. Here are just a few ways you can participate in Celebrate Trails Day while showing a little love to your community and the planet. [Find out more >>](#)



Ways to Celebrate Trails

Trails deliver joy and impact for people, places, and the planet every day—and that's worth celebrating. Every year since 2013, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy holds a big **springtime** celebration for America's trails and invite everyone to join them. [Find out more >>](#)

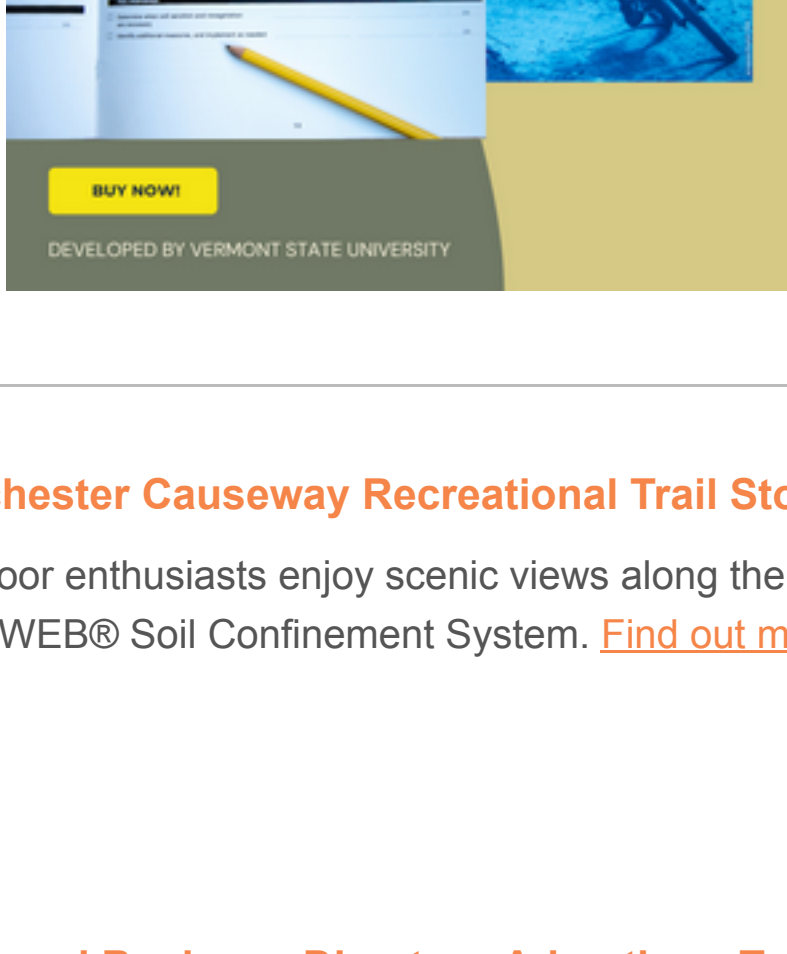


What if Everyone Picked Up Just One Piece of Litter?

Clean Trails promotes harmony with the land by encouraging stewardship and by providing mechanisms to keep the trail systems that lead to our wild spaces litter-free. [Find out more >>](#)

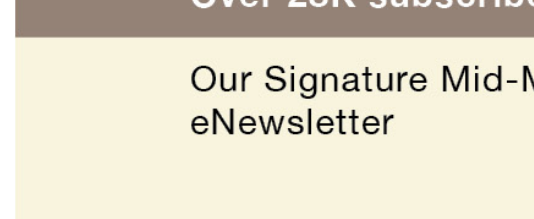
Track Your Work!

Trail workers can use this log to show and record (with their instructors or mentors) their progression toward full competency in the Trail Skills six core competency categories. Click on the picture to purchase for \$15. [Find out more >>](#)



Colchester Causeway Recreational Trail Storm Damage Repair

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy scenic views along the Vermont shorelines thanks to the GEOWEB® Soil Confinement System. [Find out more >>](#)



Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Tools For Trails

High quality tools and accessories for trail building. Tested and proven by industry leaders. Tools For Trails was created by trail builders, for trail builders, as a one stop solution for your tools. We carry tools from top brands including Prohoo, Backslope, Nupla, Silky, Warwood, and more.

Tools For Trails supplies national parks and forests, volunteer organizations, trail corps, and trail builders across the country. [Find out more >>](#)

TRAIL TRACKS
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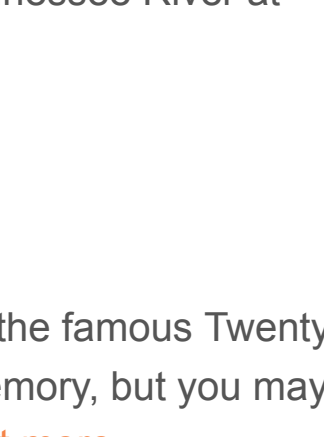
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Featured Trails...

National Recreation Trails (NRT) are recognized by the National Recreation Trust, with the consent of any Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, or private entity having jurisdiction over these lands. Today over 1,300 of these trails have been designated throughout the country. Find more trails using the NRT [Trail Finder](#).



About this month's featured trail(s): As we celebrate trails across the nation we can also celebrate trails from bygone eras. Trail systems often follow old historic roads that paved the way for our nation as we know it. Be a steward of the past. Treat cultural remains with respect. Tread lightly when visiting heritage sites. Leave artifacts where you find them. Photograph and enjoy, but do not touch fragile surfaces.



Featured NRT: Hillman Heritage Trail, Kentucky

Located in Hillman Ferry Campground, portions of the trail follow a long-abandoned road that once carried old cars, wagons, and horses to the Tennessee River at Hillman Ferry. [Find out more >>](#)



Featured NRT: Twenty Mule Team Trail, California

For many people, nothing symbolizes Death Valley more than the famous Twenty Mule Teams. Today the Twenty Mule Teams are only a fond memory, but you may see two of the last remaining wagons here in Death Valley. [Find out more >>](#)

Discover the benefits to designating your trail(s) as an NRT, the history of NRT program, the process for trails to become NRTs, and more. The deadline to apply is November 1 of every year. [Find out more >>](#)

Join the Trail Workers of America Group

American Trails advances the development of diverse high-quality trails and greenways for the benefit of people and communities. We created this group for trail workers and volunteers to connect, ask questions, and discuss trail-related issues. [Join here >>](#)