

Why Trails Matter: Trails are Inclusive Trails, if designed well, can promote equitable access to the outdoors for people of all ages and abilities, bringing

Volunteer youths working with Volunteer for Outdoor

Colorado crew leader on a trails project; Photo by Jay Poules

#### together people with diverse social, racial, gender, and economic identities. Inclusive trails don't just happen. It takes a robust public engagement process, inclusive approaches to trail programming, public awareness efforts and trail enhancements to meet the diverse needs of the entire community.

Trails are often free to use and provide a variety of active transportation and recreation alternatives. Therefore, it may be surprising to discover that many trails and greenways aren't as welcoming to all users as they might seem. Unconscious and unintentional bias and inflexible approaches to public engagement can make a lack of inclusion hard to perceive. Potential trail users in the BIPOC community, those with physical and cognitive disabilities, and other underserved populations may be left out of the trail planning and design phases. This can mean that trails

The good news is that any stage of trail development can be an opportunity for outreach to the local community, and a chance to remove barriers to inclusion. Most importantly, embracing a robust engagement process is more likely to result in trails everyone will use and participate in maintaining. To quote activist and consultant Verna Myers, "Diversity is being invited to the party, inclusion is being asked to dance." This article summarizes information about how to make trails more broadly inclusive. It is written for trails

managers, designers, builders, and interested volunteers. Find out more

**Special Opportunity!** 

don't serve their needs.



# **Program**

Resiliency Through Public Policy Program is your chance to make a real difference in the fight against climate change. If you're Indigenous, between 18-30 years of age, and based in the United States, this is your opportunity to step up and lead. **Applications close January 19.** Find out more >>>



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#### In-Person Hike the Hill® in Washington, DC February 11-15, 2024 Celebrating its 27th year, Hike the Hill® is a joint effort between American Hiking



#### access, and other top priority issues that sustain trails and improve access to public lands. Find out more >>

Society and Partnership for the National Trails System to bring together the trails

community to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and federal agency

**Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1.5 Billion Available through the 2024 RAISE Grant Program** The U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2024. The popular program helps communities nationwide carry out projects with significant local or regional impact. Applications are due February 28 through

Forest Service Significantly Expands Co-Stewardship Investments with

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on

December 6 ways the Biden-Harris Administration is fulfilling long-standing Tribal

Tribal food sovereignty and co-stewardship of federal lands and waters. Find out

requests for USDA to support and better partner with Tribal Nations in empowering

If you can't join them in person you can attend the virtual briefings, presented in

on issues that impact our national trails. Find out more via the link above.

partnership with American Trails, to learn more about advocating in your home district



USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULT

# **Strengthening Tribal Consultations and Nation-to-Nation Relationships**

are due by 11:59 p.m. PT on March 1. Find out more >>>

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understanding of how our trails impact the environment, communities, and each other. Read the Speaker Guidelines. Proposals may focus on research, data, projects, stories, or initiatives and are **due January 31.** Submit a proposal >>> The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) Nominations for **Individual Service and Project Excellence Awards** 

<u>schedule-at-a-glance</u>. The majority of field workshops are included in the registration

fee and are first come first serve. Take advantage of the early registration discount

The Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for outstanding projects,

programs, and people for recognition at California Trails & Greenways 2024 in Lake

Tahoe. This program is an opportunity to bring acknowledgment and appreciation to

individuals, organizations, and agencies who have made exceptional contributions to

trails and greenways during the 2023 calendar year. Award nominations are due

In 2024, the American Society of Landscape Architects proudly marks its 125th

anniversary! Submit your visionary presentations and be a part of the dialogue that

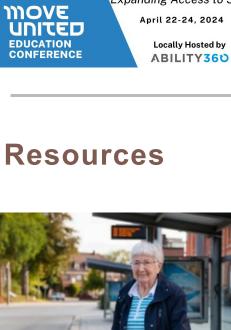


## and register by March 15! Find out more >> **California Trails & Greenways Call for Awards Nominations**

**ASLA 2024 Conference on Landscape Architecture** 

February 2. Find out more >>>

will define the next era of our profession by February 22 at 12:00 p.m. PT. Find out more >> **Move United Education Conference** 



Expanding Access to Sport

April 22-24, 2024

#### This document by the Age and Dementia Friendly Physical Infrastructure Team of the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias was created to assist anyone involved in designing buildings and outdoor spaces across the Commonwealth. Find out more >>>

Age and Dementia Friendly Design Considerations for Physical

New Tools and Pathways for Incorporating Indigenous Values into the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) Stewardship Efforts Recently, new resources were released to increase awareness of Indigenous History

Coalition (CDTC) partnered to create two public resources— a Cultural Landscape

Training Path tool and the first installment of the "Connection to the Land" film series.

CDTC also partnered with the CDT Program Team for the USDA Forest Service in the

inception of another resource, the **Cultural Landscape Training Path** tool. The work

began as a discussion about taking the framework developed for the CDT Scenic

See ways to create inclusive public places for community members during the winter



## community-based resources. Find out more >> **Equitable and Inclusive Trail Building Toolbox** Trail professionals and trail lovers alike can play a role in making trails more inclusive

and equitable. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy provides helpful resources and strategies

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New Professional Development

for the advancement of equitable trail development and access across the country.

AMERICAN TRAILS

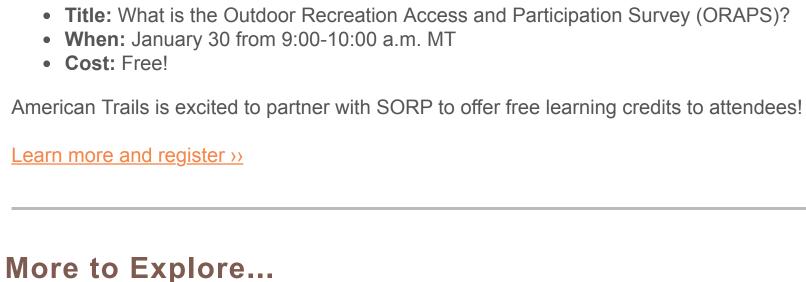
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Improving Accessibility on Public Lands



Find out more >>

#### American Trails has a mission to advance the development of diverse, high-quality trails and greenways for the benefit of all people and communities. This article includes recommendations for action to improve accessibility to trails and outdoor recreation opportunities on Federal, State, and local public lands. Find out more >>> New Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Accessible Sites Map People with mobility or other accessibility considerations can now more confidently plan outings on BLM-managed recreation sites. The BLM has launched a new

"accessibility" map for facilities across multiple states on its website. By clicking on an

As told by Wes Hall, Co-founder of North Carolina Adaptive Sports, the journey isn't

supports all-inclusive, universally designed trails for all shapes, sizes, and physical

Sierra Nevada on Truckee's scenic paved paths and NEW all-inclusive dirt trails in

abilities. Everyone is welcome to experience the beauty and awe of the northern

Washington coast has to offer. The Long Beach Peninsula and Pacific County have an

to stay. Close to both Portland and Seattle, it's an easy escape and the perfect place to

abundance of ultra-fresh seafood, endless beach, northwest rain forests, and unique places

always about taking the easy route. Sometimes, it's about pushing boundaries,

As the winter winds blow onto our Washington shore, they bellow in another of our

favorite seasons. Storm-watching on the Long Beach Peninsula is one of nature's

Crashing waves, turbulent skies, sunshine cameos, and scattered rainbows lay the

groundwork for memory-making. And when you throw in our magnificent King Tides

and two lighthouses, you'll experience a natural wonder that is bucket-list worthy.

most dazzling performances, and we're lucky enough to have a front-row seat.



## the Tahoe National Forest. Find out more >> Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Visit Long Beach Peninsula WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON COAST. Slow down, unplug, and enjoy all the

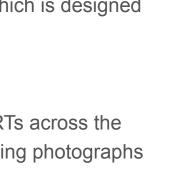
National Recreation Trails (NRT) are recognized by the federal government, with the consent of

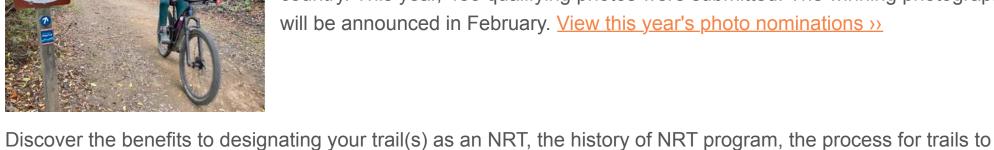
any Federal, State, Tribal, local, nonprofit, or private entity having jurisdiction over these lands.

Today over 1,300 of these trails have been designated throughout the country. Find more trails

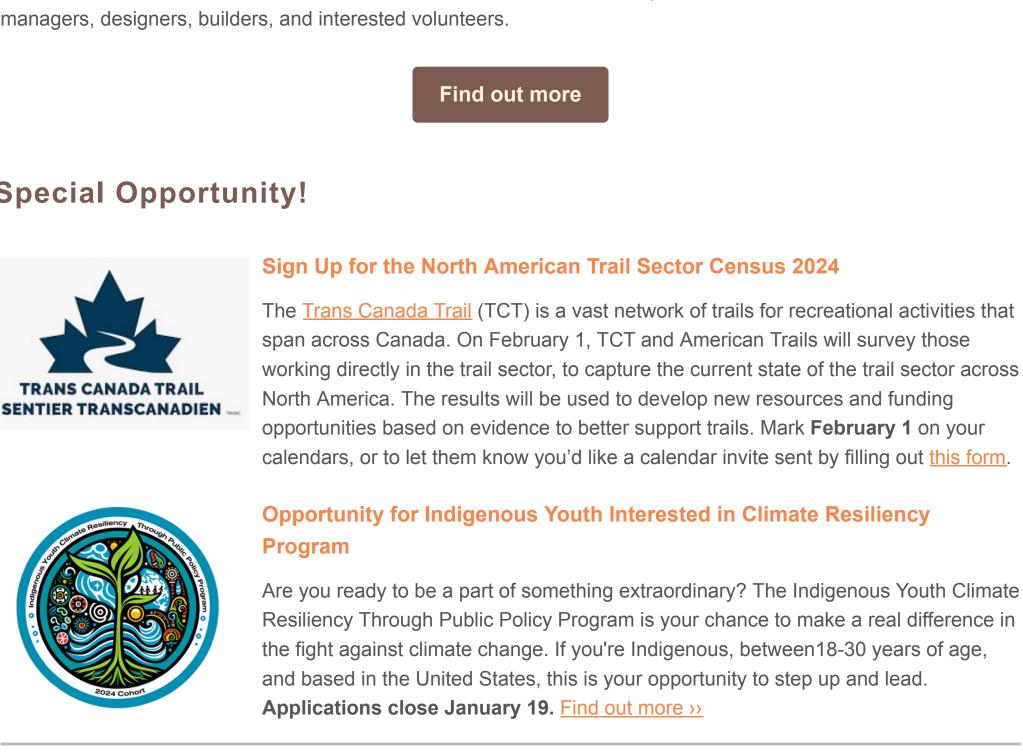
using the NRT <u>Trail Finder</u>. Featured NRT: Wilson Creek Trail, Texas The Wilson Creek Trail system winds parallel to Wilson Creek through the City of

McKinney, spread out across 500 acres through several extraordinary community





become NRTs, and more. The deadline to apply is November 1 of every year. Find out more >>>



# leaders including trails funding, public lands management and conservation, equitable Virtual Hike the Hill® January 22-25, 2024

### **Grants.gov.** Find out more >> **NEEF and USFS Announce New Veterans and Nature Grant** The goal of this grant is to increase engagement of veterans' communities in understanding the physical and mental health benefits of time in nature and provide opportunities for physical and mental health-focused outdoor activities at U.S. Forest Service sites and other public lands (including state and local sites). Applications

**Tribal Nations** 

Tribal sovereignty. Find out more >>>

more >>

#### The Tribal Relations Program strives to enhance relationships between the Forest Service, Tribes, ANCs, non-federally recognized Tribes, and Native Hawaiians, as well as American Indian, Alaska Native, and other Indigenous individuals, communities, inter-Tribal organizations, enterprises, and educational institutions, thereby improving the agency's ability to foster effective partnerships and respect

WAGNERS Lightweight Sustainable Resilient Trail Bridges and Boardw

Call for Proposals: 2024 World Trails Conference in Ottawa, Canada

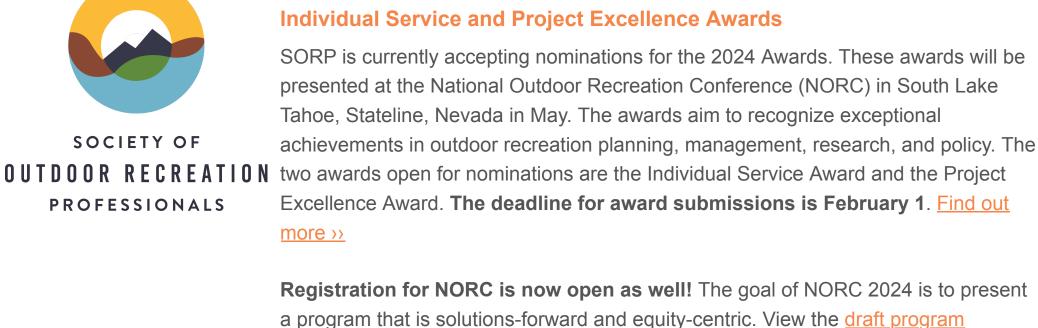
The 2024 World Trails Conference call for speaker proposals is officially open! The

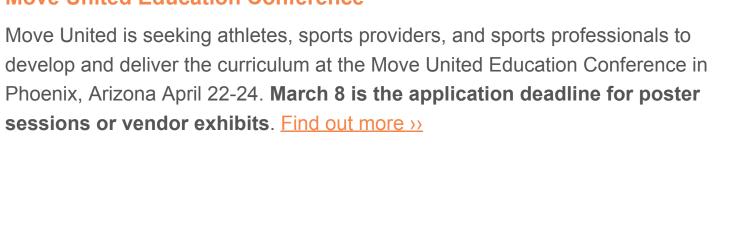
World Trails Network invites you to submit a proposal to present on the theme of

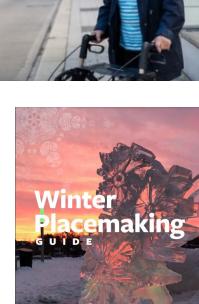
Connecting People, Places, and the Planet at the 2024 World Trails Conference,

hosted by Trans Canada Trail. With this theme, the conference will explore the

profound bonds that link humanity to the natural world and develop a new







**CONNECTION TO THE LAND** 

Cultural Landscape Training

# and incorporate Tribal perspectives in landscape use. The Continental Divide Trail

<u>View the video >> </u>

**Winter Placemaking Guide** 

months. Find out more >>

Infrastructure

Character Assessment and applying a similar standardized approach to gathering data about cultural resources along the CDT. The Cultural Landscape Training Path consists of a series of research-based story maps and interactive content to educate and inform about Tribal perspectives and from which principles for improving Indigenous participation in land management. Find out more >>

This webinar held by American Trails last October will help you discover new and

and measure success through qualitative and quantitative data. Find out more >>>

innovative ways to talk about diversity through both head and heart-centered lenses

This report will discuss how community organizing principles and practices can help

achieve comprehensive community engagement. As a lack of resources is a common

obstacle to achieving an inclusive process, Section Three of this report outlines low-

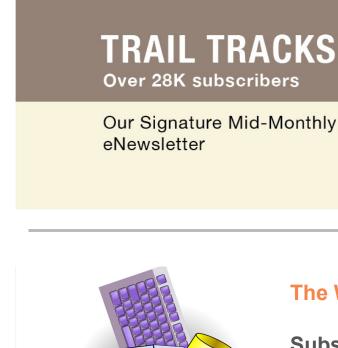
organizations and agencies connect with the communities they are working in to

cost outreach methods and emphasizes the importance of leveraging existing

Measuring Our Success in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Inclusionary Trail Planning Toolkit** 

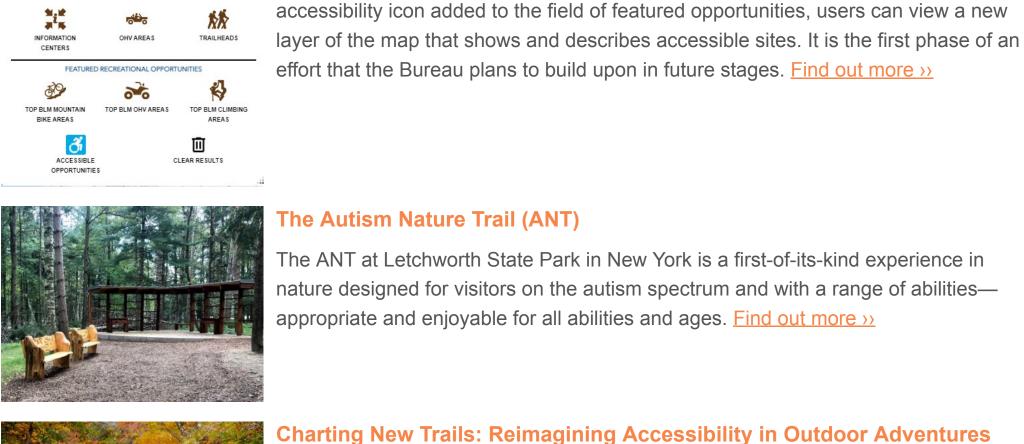
Find out more >>



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create traditions that last a lifetime. Find out more >> Featured Trails...

