

Steven Bryant explores Coldwater Mountain with the North East Alabama Bicycle Association and friends; Photo by William Boozer

**Why Trails Matter: Trails Benefit All**

March is Disability Awareness Month. A disability may be readily visible, or invisible. Disabilities may be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or a combination of multiple factors. Disabilities can be present from birth or can be acquired during a person's lifetime.

American Trails is dedicated to promoting the growth of inclusive and exceptional trails and greenways to benefit all individuals and communities. "Simply put, there is no greater statement of social acceptance than being asked to recreate together as a friend, peer, or colleague. This is why increasing opportunities for integrated outdoor recreation is so important—it serves as an effective catalyst in changing attitudes." ~ Mike Passo, American Trails Executive Director.

Discover the challenges that hinder accessibility on public lands and learn about the current state of accessible trails and outdoor areas in this article by American Trails, [Improving Accessibility on Public Lands - Recommendations from American Trails](#).

American Trails [Trail Accessibility Hub](#) is a quick resource for information on planning, building, and maintaining accessible trails. These resources provide a framework for equitable access to the outdoors for all.

[Find out more](#)

**Enjoy the Outdoors™**  
 Commercial quality products able to withstand years of use and exposure.  
 Made in the USA since 1959  
**Puot Rock.com**

**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 >>](#)

**Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Seeks Input on Congestion Solutions for Kilauea Summit Area**



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is asking for input on a plan that will address congestion, safety, resource protection, and improve the visitor experience in the busy Kilauea summit area. **The public comment period ends March 22.** This comment period is the initial phase of the plan and future opportunities to provide input will be announced as the plan develops. [Find out more >>](#)

**Oregon SB 1576A is Critical to Keeping our Trails Open**



Learn about recent trail closures due to changes in recreational immunity laws in Oregon. View this webinar by Oregon Trails Coalition. Topics include current law, its application, recent court cases, and proposed solutions to address challenges. [Find out more >>](#)

**Congress Passes \$1.33 Billion Package for Oregon Signature Trails**



As part of the recent \$6 billion funding package passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Biden, a \$1.33 billion package has been allocated to improve three of Oregon's Signature Trails. These include the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, the Blue Mountains Trail in the Umatilla National Forest, and the Oakridge-Westfir Mountain Bike System in the Willamette National Forest. [Find out more >>](#)

**USDA Announces \$500 Million to Confront the Wildfire Crisis as Part of Investing in America Agenda**



On February 20, 2024, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is investing nearly \$500 million from President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda to expand work on the [USDA Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy](#) to reduce risk to communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources from the nation's ongoing wildfire crisis, which is exacerbated by climate change. [Find out more >>](#)

**What is Working, What's Not - How Can Federal Transportation Policy Help Build Bikeable- Walkable Communities?**

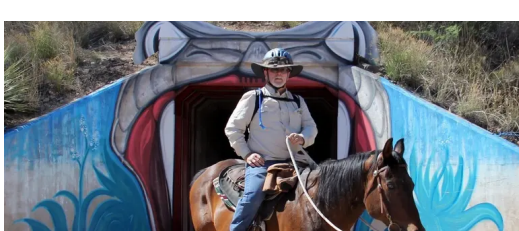


The Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals (APBP) would like to hear from you on your experience implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA/BIL). What in the new bill is working well, and what challenges do you face when planning, engineering, and building bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and complete streets? The answers from the survey can help APBP identify what changes should be recommended to support walking and biking. [Find out more >>](#)

**Proposals, Presenters, and Awards Requests...**

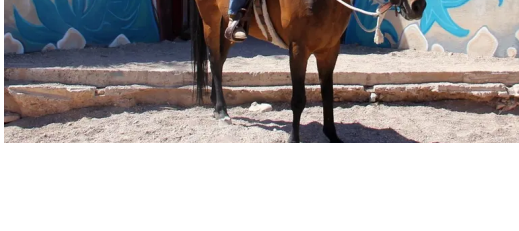
Are you looking for speakers, presenters, or award nominees for an upcoming conference? Share your trail-related requests with American Trails and they can include them in an upcoming newsletter. Send requests to [trailhead@americantrails.org](mailto:trailhead@americantrails.org).

**Celebrate Trails Day**

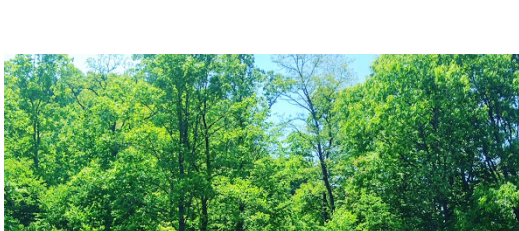


**Celebrate Trails Day: An Overview of the Celebration + Ways to Engage**

Hosted on the fourth Saturday of April, Celebrate Trails Day is an annual spring celebration of America's trails. Started by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 2013, the celebration encourages people all across the country to get outside and enjoy the nation's exceptional trails and trail systems. Here are a few tips on joining the celebration and to help plan ahead.



Looking for some inspiration to help you get started with Celebrate Trails Day? Check out [Rails-to-Trails' partner toolkit](#), which includes the official logo, customizable templates, and promotional graphics to help you promote your involvement in the event. **March 21** watch this free [American Trails Advancing Trails Webinar](#) where speakers provide an overview of Celebrate Trails Day, offer ideas for getting involved, and review the various tools and materials available to help you plan, promote, and participate in the celebration.



**How are you Celebrating Trails Day?**

Trails provide accessibility to explore the outdoors on foot, bike, and wheelchair. American Trails is interested in knowing how your organization or group is commemorating trails this year. Have a unique event or celebration planned for your community, or an interesting article to share? **Submit articles or links to American Trails by April 1** to [trailhead@americantrails.org](mailto:trailhead@americantrails.org).

**Engineered Excellence**  
 • 100 Year Design Life  
 • Won't Rust, Rot, or Corrode  
 • Inert and Non-leaching  
 • Environmentally safe  
**Lightweight Sustainable Resilient Trail Bridges and Boardwalks**  
 817-470-7821  
[www.wagnerscft.com](http://www.wagnerscft.com)  
**WAGNERS**

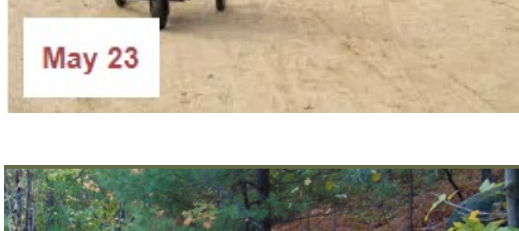
**Resources...**

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.



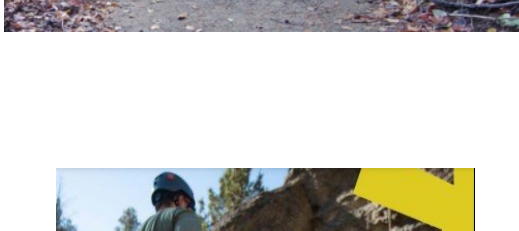
**Webinar: Adaptive Trail Mobility Equipment and Programming 101**

Want to learn more about adaptive trail equipment and adaptive recreation programming? This American Trails Advancing Trails Webinar will discuss both, as well as funding resources that can help facilitate equipment purchases and programming. [Register for this webinar >>](#)



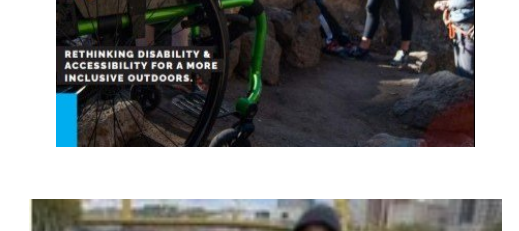
**Webinar: Building Adaptive Trail Programming: Lessons from the Field**

This American Trails Advancing Trails Webinar will introduce best practices for implementing an adaptive hiking program showcasing two successful programs. [Register for this webinar >>](#)



**Webinar: Trail Assessment for Accessibility and Sustainability**

This American Trails Advancing Trails Webinar explores the process of assessing natural surface pedestrian trails for accessibility and sustainability and will focus on developing new trails as well as conversion of existing trails. [Download the PowerPoint presentation >>](#) and [Find out more >>](#)



**Accessibility Toolkit for Land Managers**

Accessibility means more than ADA. What makes one feel welcome in outdoor spaces? When visiting a new park, how do you know that people want you to be there, that you belong? [Find out more >>](#)



**All Person Trails: Guidelines for Planning and Designing All Persons Trails**

All Persons Trails welcomes everyone by providing an inclusive outdoor experience for all. By going beyond common accessibility standards, All Persons Trails provides visitors with a wide range of needs and access to a variety of trail experiences. [Find out more](#) and watch this American Trails Webinar on Trail Sector Research with Trans Canada Trail. [View the webinar >>](#)



**Increasing Accessibility Makes the Outdoors Open for All**

America's public lands are for everyone, regardless of ability. In 2012, the National Park Service's Accessibility Task Force established specific strategies to make parks and programs accessible to a broader range of audiences and embrace greater inclusivity. [Find out more >>](#)



**Trails for All People**

How can trail groups, local governments, and land trusts responsibly plan, develop, and operate trails accessible by all people, including those with limited mobility? What are best management practices? What is legally required? When is universal accessibility not appropriate? [Find out more >>](#)



**Trail Usability**

This presentation by Quinn Brett focuses on trail information and usability for adaptive recreation for mobility device users. [Find out more >>](#)



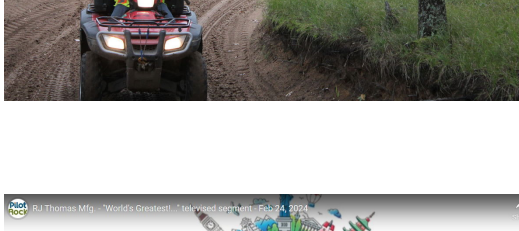
**US Access Board Outdoor Developed Areas**

The Access Board is responsible for developing accessibility guidelines for the construction and alteration of facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968. [Find out more >>](#)

**PRESTO** **FREE ONLINE WEBINAR**  
**GEO SYSTEMS** **PLAN & DESIGN**  
**SUSTAINABLE & PERMEABLE**  
 RECREATIONAL TRAILS & EMBANKMENTS  
 TUESDAY APRIL 9TH  
**REGISTER TODAY**  
 EARN 1 PDH

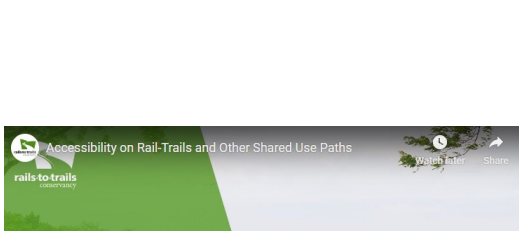
**More to Explore...**

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



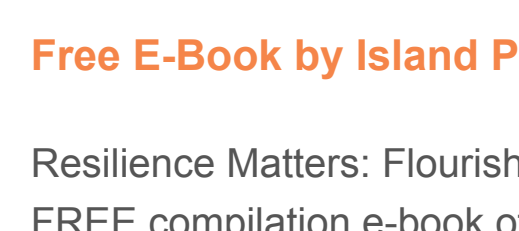
**Accessible Off-Roading: Adapting and Customizing your Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) for Riders with Disabilities**

If you can use a car, you can probably use a UTV. They come with the same wheel and foot pedals that a larger vehicle does, they just can't reach the same speeds and things will feel a little more open. Not to mention, they're easy to get in and out of. [Find out more >>](#)



**American Trails Supporter Featured on "World's Greatest!..."**

R.J. Thomas Mfg. Co. in Cherokee, Iowa is thrilled to announce that they have been featured on the Bloomberg Channel's "World's Greatest!..." TV show, a half-hour program focusing on telling "the story behind the story". Click on the image to view their segment shared on YouTube.



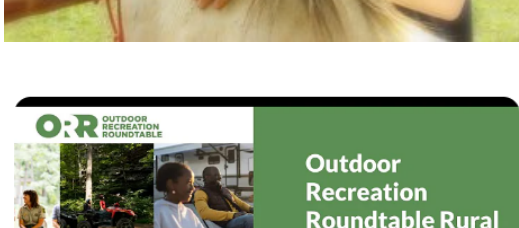
**Designing and Building Accessible Trails**

This Rails-to-Trails webinar summarizes Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines for shared-use paths and discusses federal funding for accessibility interventions on trails. It explores the accessible designs on two Philadelphia trail segments. [View the video >>](#)

**Free E-Book by Island Press**

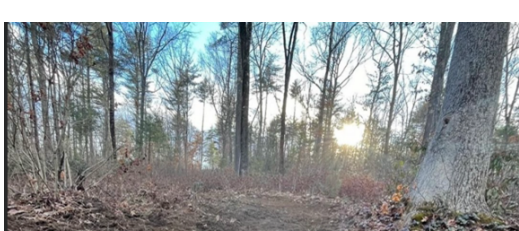
Resilience Matters: Flourishing in an Era of Extremes. A FREE E-book of articles, op-eds, and more from the Island Press Urban Resilience Project.

[Download here](#)



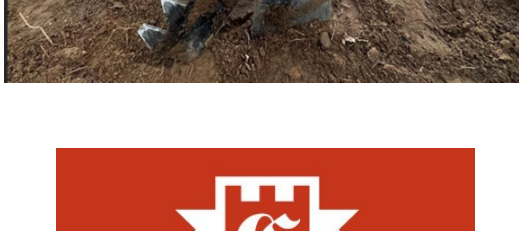
**Horsin' Around – Therapy That is Fun**

Horseback riding is naturally therapeutic. Whether they have physical, cognitive, sensory, or emotional disabilities, participants benefit from riding or working with horses. [Find out more >>](#)



**Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) Releases 2nd Edition of Groundbreaking Rural Economic Development Toolkit**

In a national webinar with over 1100 registrants from almost every state, ORR released the second edition of its Rural Economic Development Toolkit. Click the image to watch the video. [Find out more >>](#)



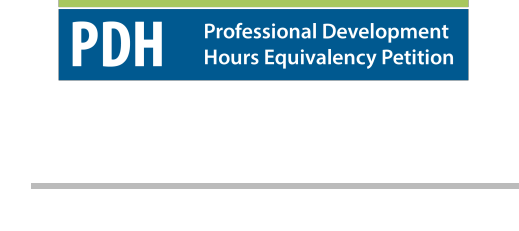
**Working in Concert with the Trailbuilding Community Sparks Joy!**

In this second article by Lauren Caecla of Camelot Tools, find out what trail builders and trail crew members are saying about the Camelot SiteMaster tool and Fire Rake! (this is a paid content article) [Find out more >>](#)



**Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Camelot Tools**

We use deliberate design and modern technology to make a difference in the lives of hardworking folks getting out there day in and day out—from our wildland firefighters, to our trail builders, conservation workers, landscapers, and more. We provide tools that work along with them to get their work done better and safer. [Find out more >>](#)



**Featured Training: Using Mentoring and Networking to Build your Career**

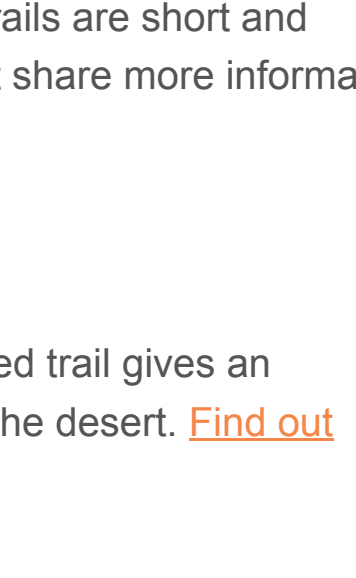
American Trails is excited to partner with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals to offer free learning credits to attendees for their upcoming FREE webinar! [Learn more and register >>](#)

Date: Wednesday, May 20  
 Time: 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm Pacific

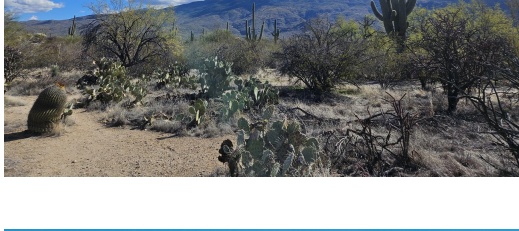
**TRAIL TRACKS** Over 28K subscribers  
 Our Signature Mid-Monthly eNewsletter  
**AMERICAN TRAILS**  
**ADVERTISE WITH US**  
 Buy This Banner Ad Space Today!  
**PATHWAYS** Over 28K subscribers  
 Start the Month with Our New Professional eNewsletter

**Featured Trails...**

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 [Trail Finder](#).

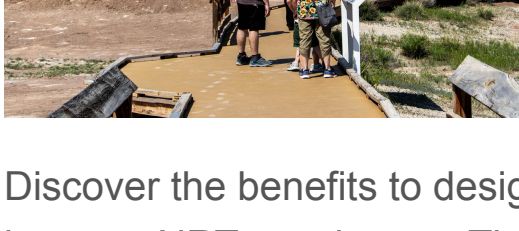


About this month's featured trails: Interpretive trails tell a story. You may learn about natural processes in the park, the plants and animals, how our ancestors lived in the area, or all three. Interpretive trails are short and usually accessible to wheelchairs. While you're on the trail, you'll find signs on the path that share more information about the world around you.



**Featured NRT: Desert Ecology Trail, Arizona**

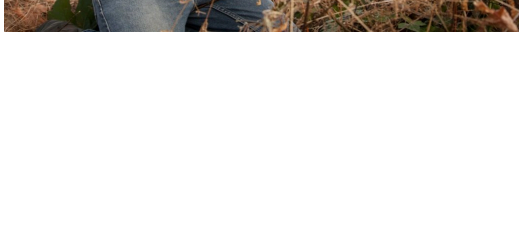
Located in the Sonoran desert, this paved interpretive, signed trail gives an overview of the plants, animals, and weather encountered in the desert. [Find out more >>](#)



**Featured NRT: Fossil Exhibit Trail, South Dakota**

This fully accessible boardwalk trail features fossil replicas and exhibits of now-extinct creatures that once roamed the area. [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 >>](#)

Connect with us!

Our Contact Information  
 \*{{(Organization Name)}}\*  
 \*{{(Organization Address)}}\*  
 \*{{(Organization Phone)}}\*  
 \*{{(Organization Website)}}\*  
 \*{{(Unsubscribe)}}\*

