TRAIL TRACKS

February 2023

Photo courtesy of Dave Hoefler_Unsplash

2023 Legacy Trail Program Awardees Announced

American Trails is excited to announce the winners of the 2023 Legacy Trail Program grants. In the first year of this program, a total of $1.35 million was awarded to 33 organizations. American Trails is proud to be able to support such excellent projects across the country, which will have a positive impact on watershed health, public access to the outdoors, and overall trail resiliency.

View the Winners

2022 National Recreation Trail Photo Contest Winners

The results are in! Here are our picks from the 591 photos submitted for the 2022 photo contest. View the winning photos >>

Trails in the News

February is dedicated as Black History Month, honoring the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Take a journey on these trails across the nation that highlight key events, figures, and locations.

- Learn About Black History in Nine Unexpected Places (National)
- Black History Month: Contemplating Inclusion in the Outdoors (National)
- New App is Helping Coloradans to Discover the Forgotten Black History of the West (Colorado)
- Worcester Black History Trail Preserves the Legacy of City's Black Community From the 1800s to the 1900s (Massachusetts)
- Boston African American National Historic Site (Massachusetts)
- New Jersey Hopes to 'Elevate the Stories of Black New Jerseyans' with the Black Heritage Trail (New Jersey)
- African American Heritage Trails Expand in Alexandria (Virginia)

Featured Trails

National Recreation Trails (NRTs) are existing land-based and water-based trails that provide close to home recreation opportunities on Federal, State, and local lands. These two NRTs are walking/driving tours that point out famous black history sites in Columbus, Georgia and Washington, D.C.

Columbus, Georgia Black Heritage Trail

The Black Heritage Trail embodies the contributions of African Americans from Columbus. Find out more ››

Washington D.C. Black History National Recreation Trail

The Washington D.C. Black History National Recreation Trail was originally created as an Eagle Scout project. The trail uses city streets and is maintained by the District of Columbia City Government and the National Park Service. Find out more ››

This month American Trails also highlights the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. National Historic Trails are designated to protect the courses of significant overland or water routes that reflect the history of the nation.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Established by Congress in 1996, the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail commemorates the people, events, and route of the 1965 Voting Rights March in Alabama. Find out more >>

Trails and Conservation

Trails Community FY24 Appropriations Recommendations

February 12-18, 2023 trail partners from across the nation will come together in Washington, DC to advance shared trail priorities that sustain trails and improve access to public lands, advocate for legislation, learn about new policies, and meet with federal partners, elected officials and their staff, and fellow trail organizations. Hike the Hill® is a joint effort between American Hiking Society and Partnership for the National Trails System. Find out more >>

"Love the Stars" in February

Do you like to stargaze? Trails in rural and wild places provide access to dark skies which are imperiled by light pollution from increasing urbanization. Support the International Dark Sky Association and Globe at Night by sharing your observations of the night sky in February. Find out more >>

International TRAILS SUMMIT

AMERICAN TRAILS — MORE TRAILS. BETTER TRAILS. — Since 1988

PTBA Professional Trail Builders Association

Reno, Nevada April 17-20, 2023

TRAIL HUB

Become an Exhibitor; Over 92% Booth Capacity

Be an exhibitor and a part of the Trail Hub that is in the center of the action, next to the registration area and where all food will be served including two Happy Trails Hours. Trail Talk networking opportunities take place in the exhibit hall and will provide optimal time to connect with attendees. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Find out more ››

Register for Offsite Workshops Before They Fill Up!
New Workshops Added

These are all optional and an additional fee. You must be an attendee in order to register for these workshops. First come, first serve (some workshops are full). Times include transportation to and from the Nugget to the trail location.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Learn more >>

Technical Training Workshops are in-depth, hands-on workshops that include classroom and, in some instances, field experience on local trails. Attendees may have the opportunity to use heavy equipment/trail tools which would be noted in the workshop description. These workshops are mostly led by PTBA members, between a half day and two days in length, and take place pre and post-ITS.

Highlighted Technical Training Workshops (this is not a complete list):

- Green Flag Trails Accreditation: Introduction to International Trail Auditing (2 days; $215)

- Safe Trailering: Loading, Securing and Towing Your Trail Equipment (half day; $125)
- Equipment Recovery (half day; $250)
- Initiation to UX Design for Trails (1 day; $350)

FIELD SEMINARS

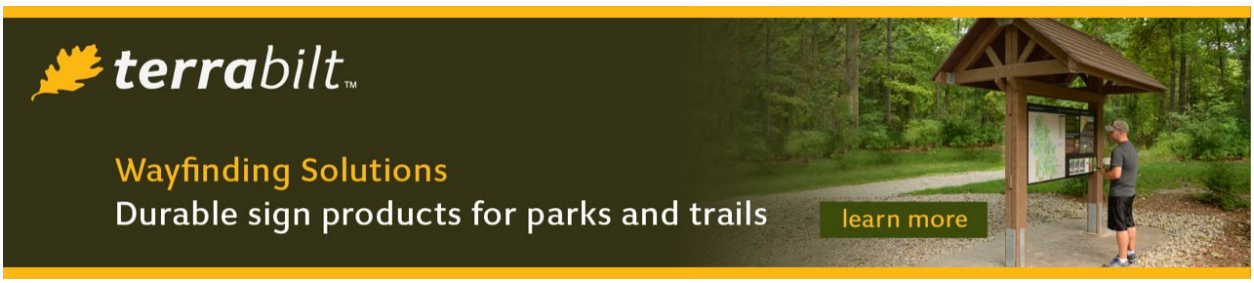
Learn more >>

Field Seminars are educational, offsite workshops showcasing the local trails led by a knowledgeable instructor. Activities may include any of the following: hiking/walking, biking, horseback riding, OHV riding, rafting/kayaking, etc. These half day field seminars take place in the mornings and afternoons during the concurrent session time slots on April 18 and 19.

Highlighted Field Seminars (this is not a complete list):

- Truckee River Kayak Adventure (half day; $25; advanced level)
- Adaptive Mountain Biking Introduction (half day; $25; beginner level)
- Tour of Sutter Trail Dozer/Attachments Manufacturing Facilty (half day; $25)

View a complete list of all workshops and seminars at the links above.



Advancing Trails Webinar Series

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 February Webinars

- February 2, 2023: Mainstreet to Mountaintop: The Economic Impact of the Continental Divide Trail in the Rocky Mountain West
- February 9, 2023: Best Practice Trail Auditing Using Digital Platforms
- February 16, 2023: Engage More People, Build New Partnerships, and Raise Awareness of Your Trail by Leveraging National Trails Day®
- February 23, 2023: An Equitable Approach to Trail Development: Circuit Trails Gap Analysis

Additional Free Future Webinars

- March 2, 2023: Using Film Festival Events to Fundraise and Build Community
- March 9, 2023: Saints, Sinners, and Sunsets: Creating a New 250-Year Old Path Between California's Spanish Missions
- March 16, 2023: Using a Digital Platform to Connect Trails to Tourism
- March 23, 2023: Activating the Trail Community in Conservation Issues
- March 30, 2023: The Trails Safe Passing Plan (TSPP) Stop! Speak and Stand Back
- April 6, 2023: Helping Wheelchair Hikers Find Hiking Trails
- May 11, 2023: Building a Comprehensive Count Program in Your Park or on Your Trails
- May 18, 2023: Informing the Trail Experience: The Process of Signing a Trail
- May 25, 2023: Pack Goats; The Agile Trail Helpers *(registration coming soon)*
- September 28, 2023: Engaging, Enabling, And Motivating Families and Diverse Trail Users *(registration coming soon)*

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).

BLM Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring Workshop – Wednesdays in March 2023 – Virtual
In partnership with Logan Simpson and the Bureau of Land Management
Email Carin Farley, NSHT Lead, BLM >>

California Trails and Greenways Conference – March 28-30 2023 – Palm Springs, CA
In partnership with California Trails Conference Foundation
Learn more ››

Successful U.S. Bicycle Route System Designation for State DOT Transportation Professionals – August 8, 2023 – Virtual
In partnership with Adventure Cycling Association
(Details coming soon)

Enter the Trails Workforce
Job Board

Build Your Skills
Training Calendar

Trail Workers of America Group
Join Here

Connect with us!

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