



# American Trails

*Advancing trails for those who build, maintain, use, and dream of trails...*

## Trail Capacity Building Regional Training Concept

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### *Introduction*

In support of American Trails' vision of advancing the development of diverse, high-quality trails and greenways for the benefit of people and communities, we are looking for partners to support our efforts in establishing a Regional Trail Training Program (RTTP). Upon its implementation, the RTTP will benefit the Partner Trail Community with an increased ability to be stewards of the current and future recreational trails throughout their respective region or state. Our expectation at American Trails is to provide through skills and program development trainings and workshops a sustainable model for increasing the number of trail stewards in the community.

### *Purpose*

Trails have been a part of humanity's social fabric since we began to walk and there is evidence that there will be nothing but an increase in the need for trail development and use into the future. Unfortunately, the fiscal support to effectively plan, develop and manage these trails is not adequate with respect to the demand that exists. Successful trail development and management is the result of collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders.

The goal of the RTTP is to provide cost effective support to the fiscal shortcomings of the trail community in the region. This will be accomplished by:

1. Enhancing the skill set of the Agencies, Organizations and Individuals that embrace the stewardship of the trails
2. Increasing the opportunity for collaboration between Agencies, Organizations and Individuals that embrace the stewardship of trails

### *Program Description*

Partners in the development and delivery of the RTTP may include Federal, State and Local Government (Agencies), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Businesses, and the General Public. American Trails working, with its partners, will deliver training workshops at locations throughout the area. Participants in these workshops are anticipated to include Agency and NGO staff and the general public that is interested in volunteering. These workshops will reflect a variety of to be determined skills and are envisioned to include elements of:

- Trail Planning and Design
- Trail Construction
- Trail Maintenance Management
- Trail Based Recreation and Education
- Trail Crew Leadership
- Program/Organizational Development

Additionally, "Train the Trainer" workshops will be developed for specific skill topics and a "Cadre" of competent local trainers will be established to meet the future needs of the community.

### ***Program Structure***

Critical to the success of this effort will be a comprehensive planning process. During this process stakeholder, partners and participants will be identified. A training and program development needs assessment survey will be developed and delivered that will result identifying workshop content and objectives. Agencies and organizations with an interest in hosting workshops will be identified and a schedule for implementation will be developed. Likely, 2-4 pilot workshops will occur to illustrate their delivery and structure.

Subsequent to the above process will be the workshop implementation. Over an 8-12 month window the potential for 8-10 Skill, 3-4 Program Development and 2-3 Train the Trainer workshops seems probable. Duration of individual workshops would vary pending content but are expected to range in time from 2-3 hours (an afternoon) to 16 hours (2 days). The result of these workshops will be an estimated 125 individuals participating in the skills program development workshops and 10-12 participants in the "Train the Trainer" workshops.

### ***Funding***

Funding requirements for this effort have not yet been determined. The anticipated cost is expected to be between \$20k- \$40k for the planning process \$40k-\$60k for the implementation. Funding mechanisms are expected to include, grants, in-kind contributions and possibly some nominal fee for service for the individuals participating in the workshops. The sources of funding are projected to include Partners, Businesses and Local Philanthropic Interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Passo", written in a cursive style.

Michael J Passo  
Executive Director, American Trails