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On the Cover Castle Crags State Park, CA
Photo by Mike Bullington, www.outdoorperspective.com

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American Trails

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American Trails Magazine

American Trails Magazine (ISSN 1082-8303) is the magazine of American Trails, the nonprofit organization dedicated to quality trails and greenways within 15 minutes of every American home or workplace.

Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald

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News from the front

From *Trail Tracks* to the *American Trails Magazine*

By Robert Searns, Chair, American Trails Board

A MERICAN TRAILS HAS come into its own in its unceasing mission to promote trails and greenways accessible to all Americans.

Our website now receives over 80,000 visits a month with people hungering for more information about finding trails, using trails, and creating new high quality trails and greenways. *Trail Tracks*, our highly successful newsletter has now re-emerged as *American Trails Magazine*. We hope you will enjoy our new name and continue to enjoy the straightforward, no-nonsense trails and greenway advice that is the *Trail Tracks* tradition.

Please note also that *Trail Tracks* will live on. We have bestowed this name on our new op-ed section that will appear in each edition of *American Trails Magazine*. We invite you to be a part of *Trail Tracks*. Send your comments, letters, or maybe an editorial or opinion piece submittal to Stuart Macdonald, editor of *American Trails Magazine*, at mactrail@aol.com.

We also continue to encourage your articles about great trails, great trail and greenway planning and design, accessibility, trail safety, and other topics our readers will want to read.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of American Trails, let me extend a heartfelt expression of gratitude to Roger Bell for his dedicated years of service as National Chair of the Board of American Trails. Roger, American Trails would not be what it is today without you! Roger continues to serve on our board as Vice-Chair. We also thank Pam Gluck, our steadfast Executive Director and her excellent staff Mike Bullington and Candace Mitchell, as well as our longtime webmaster and *American Trails Magazine* editor, Stuart Macdonald.

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American Trails

www.AmericanTrails.org

New look, same great resource.

Visit www.AmericanTrails.org to see our new look and improved navigation to help you find what you're looking for. We're the largest online resource for trail advocates, planners, builders, and managers with hundreds of articles, studies, and resources, and thousands of links to the worldwide trails community.

American Trails and Trails.com Form New Partnership

AMERICAN TRAILS is very proud to establish a partnership with Trails.com. Trails.com supports responsible trail use by all types of trail enthusiasts, a vision shared by American Trails. Together, we are pursuing a national infrastructure of trails and greenways that serves a full range of activities. Through education, partnerships, and timely information resources, American Trails promotes the creation, conservation and broad enjoyment of quality trails and greenways that offer places of solace, health, fitness, recreation and transportation for all Americans. Working with Trails.com, we hope to get more Americans on trails in 2006 and beyond, and to create better stewards of our trails.

What Trails.com has to offer

Since 1999, Trails.com has partnered with national and local guidebook publishers to assemble a database of 35,000 trails throughout North America. All of these trails come from published guidebooks and provide detailed information including trail maps, route descriptions, driving directions,

photos, and more. Each trail also has a shaded-relief USGS topographic map associated with it, and all trails and maps can be viewed online and printed out. Trails.com is an online subscription service that requires an annual fee for full access. A free trial of the service is available for those who want to try it before subscribing.

Support the work of American Trails by subscribing to Trails.com from the American Trails home page at www.AmericanTrails.org. Have thousands of trails and maps at your fingertips!

The North Face Supports American Trails Website

ENTER TO WIN GEAR! The North Face, a leader in the outdoor gear and apparel industry, is promoting its new Ascent product line with a weekly giveaway. For a link to the contest entry form, see the advertisement on www.AmericanTrails.org. You'll also find the ad on the State-by-State Trails pages. For more information on The North Face gear, visit their website at www.thenorthface.com.

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Recognition for your trail

National Recreation Trails photo contest and National Trails Day

Looking for Great Photos of National Recreation Trails

AMERICAN TRAILS IS SPONSORING the 2006 contest for photographs of National Recreation Trails across the country. Our annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website. The goal is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails. The deadline for entries is August 31, 2006.

We're looking for good photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, management issues, construction, and volunteers. We also want to see entries that cover the many types and uses of National Recreation Trails throughout America.

Photos of any designated National Recreation Trail are eligible. Check the online searchable database for a list of NRTs in your state and for more information on individual trails. If you're not sure if a trail is an NRT, or if you have questions about the contest, call American Trails at (530) 547-2060 or NRT@AmericanTrails.org. Entries will be displayed on the NRT website.



On the New River National Recreation Trail; photo by Linda Richardson

You may submit digital photos as JPEG or TIFF files. Film is also acceptable but only 35 mm slides or negatives. Attach a list of your entries with description or caption, location, and photographer's name with contact information for each photo. You may include maps, brochures, or news articles.

Send your entries by email to NRT@AmericanTrails.org or by postal mail to American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding, CA 96049-1797. Details are on the website at www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails

Help Celebrate Trails in 2006 With National Trails Day Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006 is time to "Experience Your Outdoors" with a National Trails Day® event.

- Educate people of all ages about trails and how they promote a healthy lifestyle
- Organize a trail maintenance project
- Dedicate a new trail
- Plan guided outdoor walks
- Excite all generations of trail users with activities for the entire family

Register your event and American Hiking Society will:

- Send you free National Trails Day posters
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- Promote your event on the American Hiking Society website

American Hiking Society thanks its 2005 National Trails Day partners for their support:

- Corporate Sponsors: Adventure Medical Kits, Backpacker, Eastern Mountain Sports, Merrell, REI, Royal Robbins, & Thorlos.
- Federal Partners: Bureau of Land Management, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Visit the website at www.NationalTrailsDay.org to register your event and to download the National Trails Day Event Organizer's Manual. Questions? Contact Ivan Levin, Trail Programs Manager, 1422 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Call (301) 565-6704 x208 or email NTD@AmericanHiking.org

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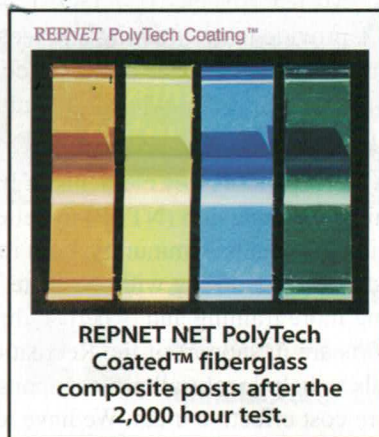
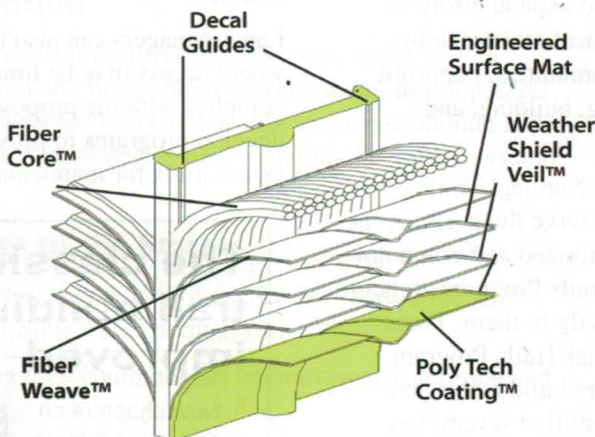
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American Trails Will Offer Workshops on Trails Training

By Pam Gluck, Executive Director, American Trails

AMERICAN TRAILS' GOAL is to expand efforts to provide better training and technical assistance by working with the States and local communities, nonprofit groups, and agencies who are planning, building, and managing trails.

We are expanding key elements of the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP) to better serve the needs of the nationwide trails community, both motorized and nonmotorized. We are working with the State Trails Programs to help bring more training and expertise directly to them. These efforts are in support of the Recreational Trails Program goals to help local trail project sponsors build better and more cost effective trails. We have identified several key areas where more resources are needed: accessible trails, assessing trails, trail crew leadership, developing a State training program, and working with developers.

States may use RTP Educational Funds for safety and environmental protection, including training related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment. States may pay for the training, and could charge a fee to attendees to recoup some or all of the costs of the workshop. See Christopher Douwes' article on page 10 about how your State can fund training.

American Trails will offer the following workshops:

Understanding Accessibility and Building Better Trails

The goal of this one-day workshop is to teach participants current accessibility requirements and legal issues, provide an introduction to the Universal Trail Assessment Process, learn about the benefits of sustainable trail design, and analysis and problem solving for accessibility.

Universal Trail Assessment Process Workshops

This two-day workshop enables individuals to conduct accurate assessments of trails in their own community and to lead groups of untrained individuals in the completion of trail assessments.

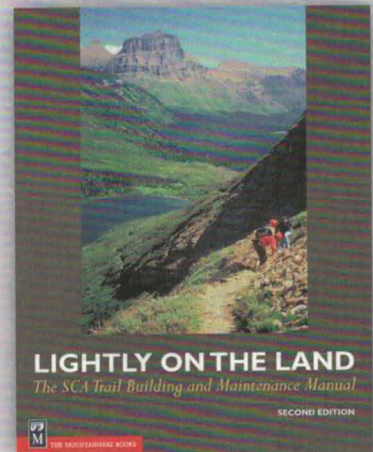
American Trails and Beneficial Designs, Inc., continue to offer the Universal Trail Assessment Coordinator Workshops throughout North America each year. UTAP provides objective, accurate information about the conditions on a trail or in outdoor environments. The assessment results can help trail users determine whether a trail meets their interests and abilities.

Land managers can also use the information to identify areas where access may be limited and to determine whether a trail complies with the proposed accessibility guidelines, to develop programs to provide trail access information, and to assess trails for maintenance needs.

The classic text on trail building has been improved

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- ★ The latest in management of work crews of all ages
How to build "sustainable" trails with smaller budgets
- ★ From the Student Conservation Association
"The definitive trail maintenance manual" - Washington Trails Association



Lightly On the Land: The SCA Trail Building and Maintenance Manual, 2nd Edition



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Trails Training Partnership

continued

Trail Crew Leadership Training

The Colorado Outdoor Training Initiative (COTI) and American Trails are partnering to present a new and exciting standardized training program for crew leadership. This 16-hour workshop covers leadership, tool and crew safety, and technical trail skills. This workshop is best for individuals that have had experience working on trail projects or previous crew leadership experiences. Seminar length: two days.

Creating a State Trails Training Program Workshop

Based on the COTI model, this workshop will help States identify who needs and/or provides training, to develop cooperation and a common goal, and to create a statewide organization to make training more available, as well as more effective in your State.

Working with Developers Forum

Bring together developers, builders, consulting firms, government, and nonprofit organizations for interactive discussion and information sharing about: developments that incorporate well-planned and connected trails and greenways, the economic and market value of greenways and trails, and strategies for expanding the greenways and trails network in your local area.

Benefits of Bringing Trainings to the States:

- Bringing training to the States saves scarce travel funds, reduces travel time, and eliminates the need to obtain out-of-State travel permission.
- Staff and volunteers receive training they could not get without significant time and travel expenditures.
- Volunteers with better training will do work with more value.
- Youth are better educated for future employment in outdoor recreation and natural resources fields.
- The availability of skilled volunteers and staff reduces the cost of local trail projects and provides more significant matching services.
- Better training of local trail project sponsors will result in better trails built at a lower cost to be more sustainable and accessible over the long term.

The States may provide training venues, and may charge a training fee. The goal of in-state travel is to reduce travel time and cost for the participants and for the states.

Please contact Pam Gluck at the American Trails office at 530-547-2060 or pam_gluck@americantrails.org to discuss prices and schedule a workshop.

The National Trails Training Partnership is funded primarily through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program. See www.NTTP.net.

For information on hosting these workshops in your state or region, please contact Pam Gluck, Executive Director, American Trails,

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Funding Trails Training

Applying for Recreational Trails Program funds? Learn how States can use these dollars for trail assessments, education, and training

By Christopher Douwes
Trails and Enhancements Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration

THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) provides funds to the States for recreational trails and trail-related projects. States may use RTP funds to do trail assessments and to provide education and training.

Here are excerpts of the draft *2006 Revised Recreational Trails Program Guidance* relating to Trail Assessments and Education and Training:

Category F: Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance, authorizes specific projects to assess trails to determine the level of accessibility for people who have disabilities, to develop programs to provide trail access information, and to assess trails for current or future maintenance needs.

OMB Circulars allow some employee training costs; therefore, some costs for training in trail assessment techniques may be eligible under Category F, and would not have to be subject to the 5 percent limitation for educational projects under Category G. See:

- Training for State, Local, and Indian Tribal government employees
- Training for Nonprofit Organization employees
- National Trails Training Partnership for trail assessment information.

A State may provide funds for trail assessments through:

- Hiring professional trailbuilders or assessors.
- Hiring professionals to provide on-the-job training for others to do trail assessments, such as youth conservation or service corps participants, State or local staff, or volunteers.

- Using youth conservation or service corps, State or local staff, volunteers, etc.

Educational Projects

Category G: Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection, (as those objectives

relate to one or more of the use of recreational trails, supporting non-law enforcement trail safety and trail use monitoring patrol programs, and providing trail-related training), authorizes a State to use up to 5 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.

This is the maximum allowable: a State may use less than this amount.

A State may provide education and training for government agency staff (including

Federal, Tribal, State, and local), youth corps, nonprofit organizations, contractors, volunteers, and the general public.

A State may use professional trail builders or trainers to provide training, including qualified youth conservation or service corps. States may provide training within the State or have regional training among neighboring States. See information on trail training coordinated through the National Trails Training Partnership at www.NTTP.net.

Education projects may include:

- Develop and operate trail safety education programs.
- Develop and operate trail-related environmental education programs.



Christopher Douwes (left) with State Trail Administrators at a trail design workshop at White Clay State Park, DE

- Develop and provide training on trail accessibility and sustainability (see also Category F).
- Produce trail-related educational materials, including information displays, in print, video, audio, interactive computer displays, etc.
- Trail patrols to monitor trail use, safety, conditions, and/or environmental impacts.
- Trail patrols to provide trailside assistance such as providing emergency aid, search and rescue, helping trail users repair equipment, etc.
- Trail patrols to educate trail users, to protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop and deliver training that promotes safety or environmental protection related to recreational trails. This includes training related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because each of these steps can relate directly to safety and environmental protection. Note: this does not include training related to club or organizational development or grant-writing skills.
- Develop or support publications related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because these steps relate to safety and environmental protection.
- States are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to develop and provide training and to work in trail patrols.
- States using RTP funds to develop training and education materials and programs should acknowledge the RTP and the FHWA. Written materials developed with RTP funds and the results of the planning and research developed with RTP funds should be available to the general public. Except in rare circumstances, materials produced with RTP funds should be available as public domain material.

Some materials are only partially educational. For example, a trail system map generally is not an education project. However, if one side of a map is dedicated to trail safety and environmental protection education, then educational funds may participate in half of the cost of the map.

FUNDING TRAINING *continued on page 12*

Stewardship

Learning New Skills in 2006

Caring for our trails is a constant learning process, with new challenges around every curve. A wide variety of training is available during 2006 for volunteers and professionals working to develop trails of all kinds. The **National Trails Training Partnership** is working with the agencies and organizations across America who are hosting trail-related training. Visit the online calendar to find training events at www.NTTP.net.

Some courses are sponsored by ongoing training programs and are held several times during the year and in different parts of the country. The following examples are only a selection of what is available and listed on the NTTP Online Calendar:

Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP)

Coordinator Workshops teach objective, accurate measurements of trail conditions to identify maintenance issues as well as accessibility for persons of all abilities.

Trail Management: Plans, Projects and People

is a week-long interagency course hosted by the BLM which covers planning, design layout, construction, maintenance, monitoring, interpretation, and operations.

IMBA Trailbuilding Schools, sponsored by Subaru of America and the International Mountain Bicycling Association, help bike clubs, land managers, and other trail groups to improve trails, solve management challenges, and learn the art of sustainable trailbuilding.

Off-Highway Vehicle Management is offered at several state workshops by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) and local groups. See page 12 for details of the online courses on OHV Recreation offered by Marshall University.

Trail Skills for Volunteers are taught by national, state, and regional groups such as the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, American Hiking Society, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Tread Lightly! Train-the-Trainer Workshops and other courses in outdoor ethics, wilderness management, and "**Leave no Trace**" camping are available from a variety of organizations.

Promote your training opportunities! Send information to NTTP@AmericanTrails.org. Courses and events will be posted on the continuously updated online Trails Training Calendar at www.NTTP.net.

State Administrative Costs

Category H: *Payment of costs to the State incurred in administering the program, but in an amount not to exceed 7 percent of the apportionment made to the State for the fiscal year to carry out this section,* authorizes a State to use up to 7 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for State administrative costs. This is the maximum allowable: a State may use less than this amount. A State must have sufficient documentation to justify its administrative costs.

Allowable administrative costs include items such as:

- Staff time to administer the RTP, including meeting and travel costs, and attendance at trail-related training sessions and conferences.
- Costs related to the State recreational trail advisory committee, including meeting and travel costs, and committee member attendance at trail-related training sessions and conferences.
- Develop and deliver training for project sponsors on how to apply for RTP funds in the State.
- Newsletters, websites, or other communications related to recreational trails.
- Develop or support publications related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment.
- Statewide trail planning related to the RTP. Because the RTP requires a statewide trail plan, States may use their administrative funds to develop and update a statewide trail plan.
- Trail conference support. States using RTP funds for conference support should acknowledge the RTP and the FHWA, and invite FHWA division office participation.
- States using RTP funds to develop publications, manuals, and other materials should acknowledge the RTP and the FHWA. Written materials developed with RTP funds and the results of the planning and research

“The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States for recreational trails and trail-related projects. States may use RTP funds to do trail assessments and to provide education and training.”

developed with RTP funds should be available to the general public. Except in rare circumstances, materials produced with RTP funds should be available as public domain material.

For more information on the Recreational Trails Program funding, and guidance on all aspects of the program, visit the Federal Highway Administration website: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails. Find more on funding and Federal programs at www.AmericanTrails.org (click on “Resources”).

Marshall University Offers OHV Recreation Courses

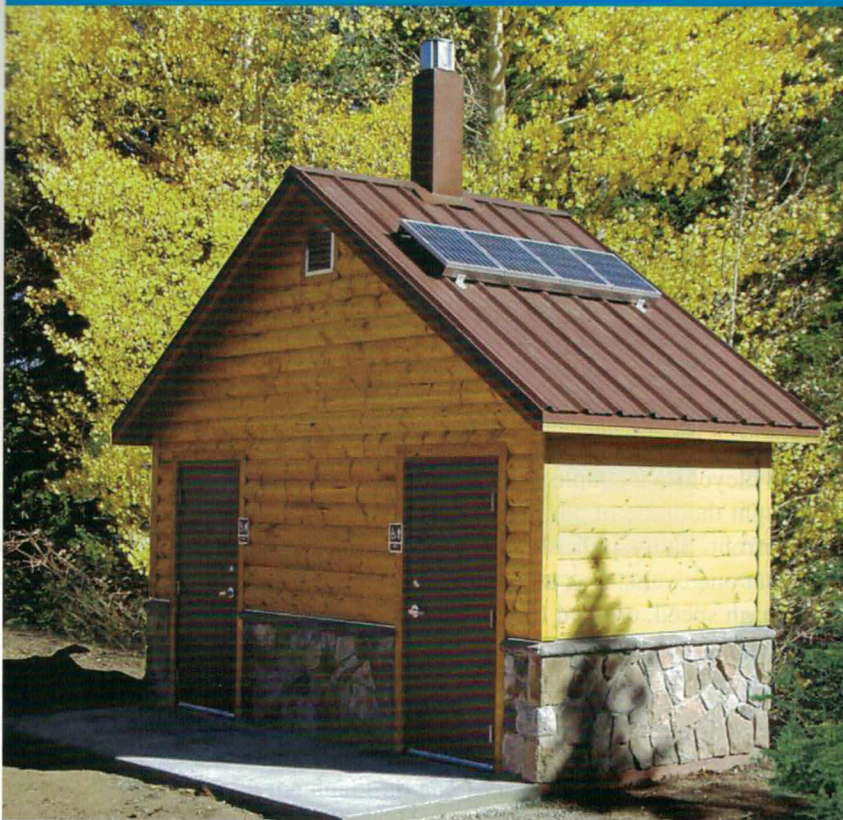
THE MARSHALL UNIVERSITY Recreation and Park Resources program, in cooperation with the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute and with advisory assistance from the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, has developed a series of off-highway vehicle courses. Each of the courses has been offered online:

- Introduction to Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation
- Planning and Design of OHV Trails and Parks
- Operation and Management of OHV Trail Systems
- Construction of OHV Trail Systems

The first two courses (PLS 450/550 and 451/551) are currently available online and are offered on an alternate semester basis. The third course in the series (PLS 452/552) is currently being prepared to offer online and the Construction course (PLS 453/553) will be online soon thereafter.

Planning and Design of OHV Trails will be offered May 15-August 7 (Session B). Marshall University welcomes all eligible students. Prospective students must be admitted to the university prior to enrollment.

See www.marshall.edu/muonline/ohv.asp for enrollment information. For admission questions contact Sonja McKenna, Assoc. Dir. of Admissions, at (304) 696-2243 or cantrell@marshall.edu. The instructor is Dr. Raymond Busbee at busbee@marshall.edu.



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We Built It and They Came

How Littleton, CO and The South Suburban Park and Recreation District Addressed Trail Crowding, Conflicts and Excessive Speed

By Robert Searns, with Bill Woodcock and John Pflaum, P.E.

THE MARY CARTER Greenway Trail is the flagship trail of the Metro Denver southern suburbs. Initiated in 1980, the eight-mile, \$4 million trail and paddleway has become the spine of the extensive trail network serving the populous southern suburbs and is an integral part of Denver's world-class trails and greenways network.

The backbone of the system is a 10'-wide warm-tone concrete pathway that accommodates walkers, joggers, roller skaters, and bicyclists. The trail was also part of the restoration of the South Platte River with clean-up, re-vegetation, landscaping and the creation of a 600-acre floodplain conservation park. The project has won national awards and is considered a model for urban greenway development.

Success, however, has bred some problems and challenges. Centrally located and attractive, the trail has quickly filled with users of all types from fami-

lies with toddlers in strollers to daily bicycle commuters, to spandex-clad high speed bicyclists on training rides. Crowding has led to conflicts, and, in some cases, diminished the enjoyment for users.

While throughout its 20-year history serious accidents have been few, a fatal collision of two bicyclists a couple years back brought the issue of conflicts to the forefront. Sadly, police records show that one cyclist was traveling at a very high speed, crossed to the wrong lane and struck the victim head on.

In the aftermath of this tragic event, trail managers, law enforcement personnel, and other officials and experts convened a forum to address ways to reduce conflicts and promote safer trail usage. This initial gathering led to a metro-wide safety forum that now meets quarterly. The group proposed and implemented the following efforts to help mitigate the conflicts:

1. The managing agencies posted 15-mph speed limit signs along the length of the trail.

“The trail has quickly filled with users of all types from families with toddlers in strollers to daily bicycle commuters, to spandex-clad high speed bicyclists on training rides. Crowding has led to conflicts, and, in some cases, diminished the enjoyment for users.”

2. The City of Littleton has imposed a court summons for bicyclists found to be exceeding the speed limit or riding in a dangerous manner. Judges may impose harsh penalties where extreme recklessness was reported. Rangers and sometimes Littleton Police now patrol problem areas on bicycle to warn violators and issue tickets.

3. The managing agencies installed a painted centerline along the trail.

4. A new granular stone (crusher fines) side path was installed running parallel to the paved trail open to pedestrians and wheelchairs only. Careful attention was paid to detail to attractively separate the paths, maintain the landscape character of the greenway and minimize migration of gravel from the side path onto the paved path.

5. A bicycle “traffic-calming” system was installed at key entry points to high traffic and potential high-conflict areas to encourage cyclists to reduce speeds and remind them they are in a congested area. This consists of signed “bicycle roundabouts.”



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We Built It and They Came *continued*



A "bicycle roundabout" on the heavily-used Mary Carter Greenway Trail in Littleton, Colorado

The "traffic-calming" modifications are newly implemented this year. The jury is still out on how successful it will be, though the South Suburban Parks and Recreation District Rangers say that conditions have improved. They say they have been pleased with the dual trail and roundabouts and believe this has led to less accidents. According to the

rangers, there has been one incident where a cyclist accidentally rode into a roundabout and was quoted to have said: "Gee, I guess this means I'm supposed to slow down."

Early anecdotal evidence and observations seem to indicate public acceptance of the measures, though a number of pedestrians have been observed walking on the concrete trail rather than the soft-surface side path. While roller skaters, mountain bikers, and pedestrians appear to be accepting the measures, some road bikers have objected. The Metro Denver Trails Safety Forum will continue to monitor the results of the new policies and programs and welcome any comments, suggestions, or successful examples.

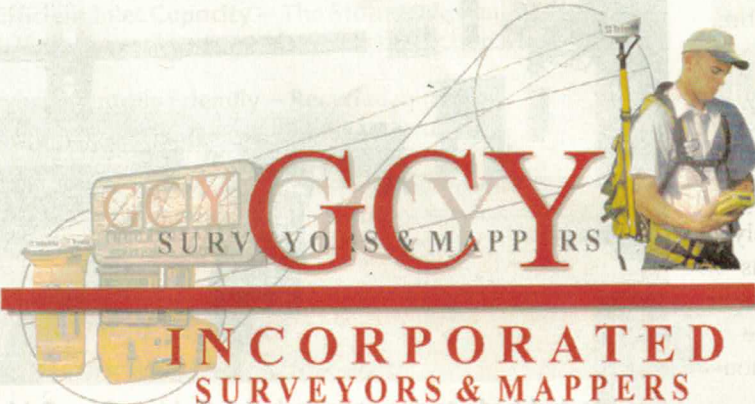
Robert Searns is Chair of American Trails and a greenway designer based in Colorado. John Pflaum, P.E. is a civil engineer who designs greenway and trail facilities (including the side trail and roundabout). Bill Woodcock is Manager of Planning and Development with the South Suburban Park and Recreation District in Littleton, Colorado.



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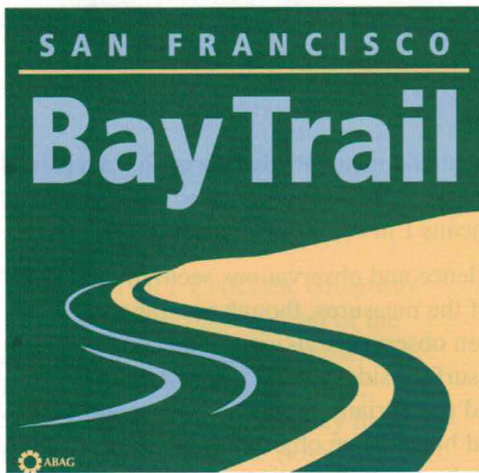
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San Francisco Bay Trail

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San Francisco Bay Trail makes waves for shoreline access

WHILE SITTING AT A RESTAURANT on the City of San Leandro, California shoreline twenty years ago, then state senator Bill Lockyer mused on the topic of public access and the San Francisco Bay. What if there were a pathway around the entire San Francisco Bay, linking neighborhoods, schools, transit, job centers and recreation facilities to the shoreline?

Within the prior decade, the steady decline of the San Francisco Bay shoreline had been halted by the “Save the Bay” movement, and Bay Area residents were slowly awakening to a shoreline renaissance. This reawakening combined with Senator Lockyer’s musings led to the introduction of Senate Bill 100 which called for the planning and implementation of a continuous recreational corridor around the entire San Francisco Bay — the Bay Trail.

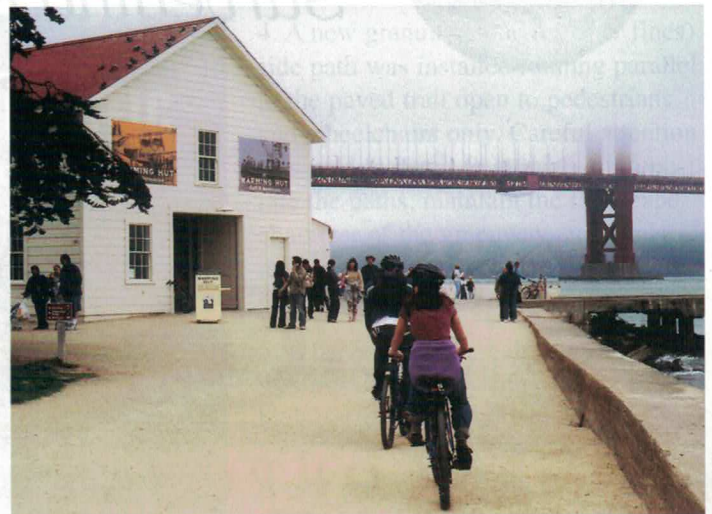
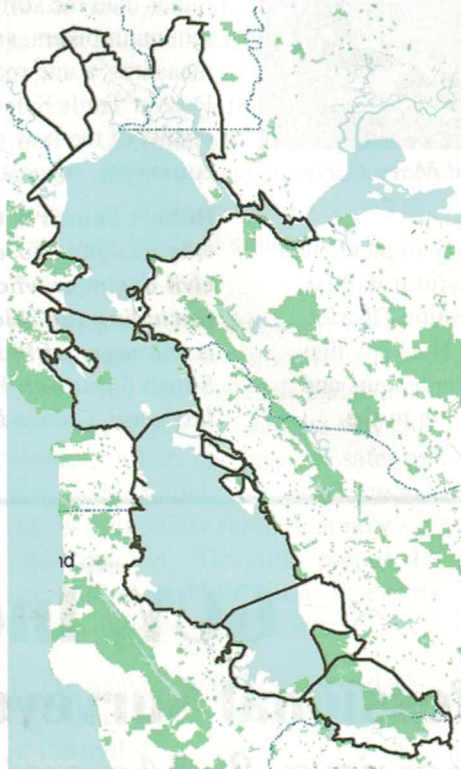
Today, that “back of the envelope” idea has been formally adopted by each of the nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities the Bay Trail passes through, and regional coordination efforts are staffed by four full-time employees. When fully built-out, this visionary trail corridor will be approximately 500-miles long. The trail will pass through myriad terrains ranging from extremely remote wetland areas where shorebirds outnumber hikers and bikers in the North Bay, to the Embarcadero promenade in San Francisco with several thousand users per day. The alignment will cross seven toll bridges, offer access to commercial areas, points of historic,

natural and cultural interest, and over 130 parks and wildlife preserves. The ultimate goal is for the entire alignment to be a fully separated pathway that is accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, rollerbladers, and wheelchair riders.

Currently more than 50% complete, the Bay Trail passes through incredibly diverse landscapes on its trek from wine country in Sonoma and Napa Counties to the heart of Silicon Valley in the southern Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Two of the most challenging aspects of trail development in the San Francisco Bay region are wetland and habitat issues, and existing industrial and port/airport related uses.

Among the shoreline uses that essentially preclude public access are two international airports, four active sea-ports, one NASA research center, and seven military installations in various stages of conversion. While Bay Trail planners continue to pursue an alignment as close as possible to the water, in areas such as these, the trail may move to inland routes and provide point access (‘spur trails’) to the waterfront where possible.

BAY TRAIL continued on page 18



Cyclists and pedestrians approach the Golden Gate Bridge near the Warming Hut in San Francisco.

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Wildlife and Public Access

Developing public access trails that offer a spectacular shoreline experience without impacting wildlife is central to the Bay Trail's mission. However, building a shoreline trail while protecting wildlife, sensitive habitat, and the natural environment can be a challenge.

This delicate balancing act has been the subject of continuing debate in the Bay Area and worldwide. Many resource managers and environmental advocates are concerned that the presence of humans (and their pets) on trails may be deleterious to shoreline wildlife. These concerns often lead to heated controversy and can sometimes create roadblocks for trail implementation. Conversely, policymakers are often frustrated because there is limited scientific data to support expressed concerns about the potential impacts of public access trails on wildlife.

To begin to find answers to these questions, the Bay Trail Project initiated a study to look at if and how recreational trail users impact shorebirds. The *Wildlife & Public Access Study*, launched in 1996, is being led by an independent research team. Specifically, the Study is examining the potential effects of non-motorized recreational trail use on the diversity, abundance, and behavior of shorebirds and waterfowl that use mudflat foraging habitat along the Bay Trail. The Study will build a foundation of statistically valid

data that can begin to guide the development and management of trails in a manner that respects and protects wildlife.

The research team completed two years of field research in 2001. The preliminary findings indicated that the study functioned as designed and suggested that there is no general relationship between trail use and either bird abundance or overall species diversity in foraging habitat in the San Francisco Bay area.

However, there were many caveats, and much more to learn from the detailed data and statistical analyses. The Study has generated great interest. Funds for a third phase of research were secured and in 2004 the team was back in the field for an additional quarter of field work.

To address questions about the data already collected, two new features were added to the protocols implemented during the first two years. In addition to collecting data on trail users and bird diversity, abundance, and behavior, the study took a qualitative look at food supply. The team also evaluated whether there is significant impact on shorebirds and waterfowl in the quads when observers are present as compared to when no observers are present. The principal investigators have completed the analysis of the mountain of data collected during the 27 months of observations and expect to have a final report available for presentation to the Bay Trail Board of Directors in May 2006, followed by submittal to peer reviewed journals later this year.

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Gap Analysis

Two of the most commonly asked questions raised by funders and policy-makers are “when will the Bay Trail be complete, and how much will it cost?” To this end, the *San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Analysis Study* was initiated. The geodatabase and geographic information system (GIS) created as background for the study provides staff with details on every gap in the Bay Trail system, and includes proposed trail type, obstacles to implementation, cost for construction, design, and permitting, and estimated completion time.

Using the methodology created by trail planners for this project, and the best available information on timeframes for completion, the cost to complete the remainder of the Bay Trail will approach \$188,000,000. This estimate includes costs to plan, design, permit and build, and but does not include trail segments that will be included in transportation infrastructure projects, nor does it include costs for segments that will be implemented as part of a permit requirement or as formal mitigation measures. The estimated timeframe for completion is 15 years, or full build-out in 2020.

As the Bay Trail slowly encircles the Bay, momentum toward what the San Francisco Chronicle has dubbed “an unofficial national park—right in the midst of the nation’s fifth-biggest urban area” (*San Francisco Chronicle Special Edition*—“The Bay Trail Adventure”, August 2003) continues to gather, and the benefits of the trail only seem to

multiply. The Bay Trail offers something for all 7+ million Bay Area residents.

Bay Trail maps including photos and recommended routes are available for purchase from our website. To order maps, t-shirts, hats, The San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide or for more information, please visit www.baytrail.org.

The Bay Trail Project is a non-profit administered by the Bay Area’s regional planning agency, the Association of Bay Area Governments. Through funding provided by the California Coastal Conservancy, the Bay Trail Project provides grants to local jurisdictions for planning and construction projects so that the trail can be implemented at the local level. The Bay Trail is not built through grant funding alone - private shoreline development projects, local grassroots efforts, as well as cities and towns constructing segments as part of their own recreational infrastructure plans are equally important to system-wide completion.

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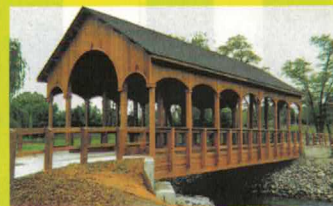
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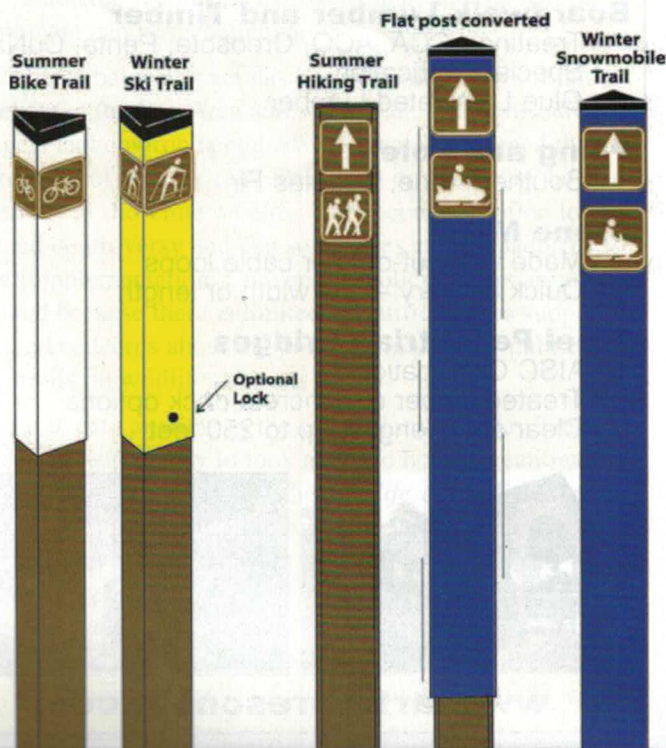
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2006 National Trails Symposium

Join us in the Quad Cities!



Save the dates in 2006:
Oct. 19-22 in Quad Cities

THE QUAD CITIES WILL HOST the **18th National Trails Symposium** in 2006 on October 19-22 at the RiverCenter in downtown Davenport, Iowa. The Quad Cities area is conveniently located along the majestic Mississippi River and includes the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa, and Moline, East Moline, and Rock Island in Illinois.

The Symposium provides an opportunity for greenways and trail advocates, managers, planners, builders, users, and outdoor product providers, as well as conservationists, private landowners, and tourism and business interests to come together to communicate and participate in an educational conference. The Symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized trails issues, from urban greenways to back-country hiking, including water and snow trail activities.

The theme for the 2006 Symposium is "Trails for America: Every Where, Every Way, Every Day." It will feature educational sessions, mobile workshops, exhibits, recreation, and more. Outings will showcase many great trails and natural areas in the region and provide examples of how trails and greenways are an integral part of economic development. Major sponsors are John Deere, US DOT Federal Highway Administration, and Riverboat Development Authority.

For up-to-date information on the Symposium, visit www.AmericanTrails.org/quad, or contact us at symposium@americantrails.org, or (530) 547-2060.

Registration

ONLINE REGISTRATION will be available in June. Early registration for the Symposium will be \$320 for American Trails members and \$375 for non-members. Early registration ends August 31. Registration packets will be mailed out in July 2006. For up-to-date information, visit www.AmericanTrails.org/quad/register.html.

Hotel Reservations

THE SYMPOSIUM has three host hotels: **Radisson Quad City Plaza** in Davenport, conveniently connected to the RiverCenter by skywalk; **Four Points Sheraton** in Rock Island, and **Stoney Creek Inn** in Moline are on the Illinois side and no more than 5 miles from the RiverCenter. These hotels provide a courtesy shuttle to and from the Convention Center. Rates will range between \$74 and \$84 per day (plus tax). Make your reservations early as rooms at these rates are limited. See accommodations and hotel information: www.AmericanTrails.org/quad/hotels.html.

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For a bid packet call (530) 547-2060 or contact symposium@americantrails.org. For information on past Symposia and their hosts, please visit www.AmericanTrails.org.

National Trails Symposium, October 19-22, 2006
For details visit www.AmericanTrails.org

2006 National Trails Symposium

National Trails Awards

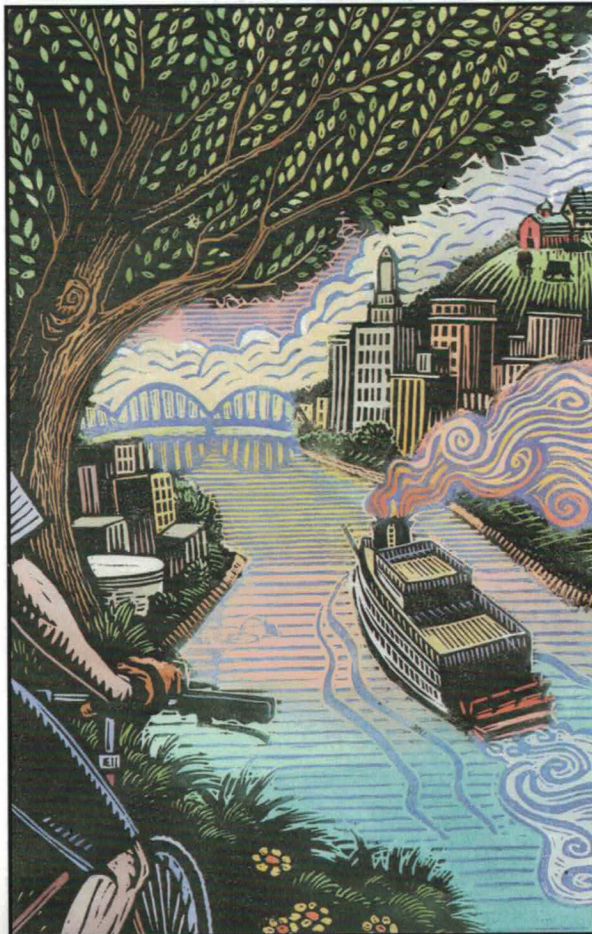
AMERICAN TRAILS RECOGNIZES individuals and organizations that have been involved in the creation and preservation of trails through a special awards program at the Symposium. The 12 categories for awards are:

- Trail Advocacy Award (1 award per state)
- Trail Worker Award (1 award per state)
- Trails for Health Award
- Lifetime Service Award
- Partnership Award
- Trails Public Service Award
- Outstanding Media Award
- Trails and the Arts Award
- Planning/Design Award
- Corporate Award
- State-of-the-Art Technology Award
- Outstanding Trail Sharing Award

The deadline for submitting awards is May 31, 2006. Nomination forms and details of award category criteria are available on the Symposium website at www.AmericanTrails.org/quad/awards.html.



American Trails Board members held their Board Retreat recently in the Quad Cities and were treated to a tour of the Great River Trail in Illinois. This sculpture overlooking the Mississippi River is just one example of art along the Quad Cities' trail systems.



Attend the 2006 National Trails Symposium in the Quad Cities

◆ October 19-22, 2006 ◆

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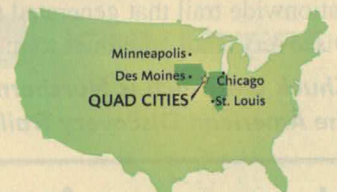
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More Symposium activities



ADT bridge ribbon-cutting attracted regional media

Mississippi River bike and pedestrian bridge opens

By Chuck Oestreich

CCROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER downstream of Arsenal Island between Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, has been a traffic-plagued battle for users of the American Discovery Trail, especially those on bikes. Side-walks were minimal, with drop-offs into heavy traffic.

A grand opening ribbon-cutting was held on August 30 for a bike and pedestrian bridge right next to a motor vehicle bridge over the rushing waters of Sylvan Slough—the arm of the river that goes around the historic Rock Island Arsenal Island—so walkers and cyclists can now enjoy unimpeded interstate connections. The trail is also a viable transportation leg. Workers and shoppers on bikes or on foot, especially in this expensive gas era, will find the bridge crucial.

The bridge was a long-time dream in the heart of community planner Gary Vallem, whose untimely death came only six months before the bridge's opening. It took many years, much effort, and truly a community push to complete. All told, at least 10 governmental groups, private non-profits, and business enterprises joined together to build the bridge.

The bridging effort across this scenic haven between large cities is called the "ADT Connection." Although that name is not official, it was this vision of the bridge as a part of a nationwide trail that generated results. The American Discovery Trail continues to make good things happen.

Chuck Oestreich is Northern Illinois coordinator for the American Discovery Trail.

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Ticket prices are as follows:

1 ticket:	\$10	3 tickets:	\$25
7 tickets:	\$50	15 tickets:	\$100

The drawing will take place at the Closing Luncheon at the National Trails Symposium on October 22, 2006. You do NOT have to be present to win. Proceeds go to support the National Trails Symposium and to continue the work of American Trails. Thank you for your support!

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The drawing will take place at the Closing Luncheon at the National Trails Symposium on October 22, 2006.

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The Symposium exhibit hall will feature over 125 exhibits representing trail-related businesses, agencies, and organizations from all over the country. Booth placement is determined by the order in which exhibitor contracts are received. All sponsorships and booths must be paid in full by April 30, 2006 to receive a 15% fee discount.

Download sponsor/exhibitor packets and contract from:
www.AmericanTrails.org/quad/spons.html.

Symposium Sponsors

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- Illinois Trail Riders
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- Iowa Horse Council
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Iowa Trails Council
- Keep Scott County Beautiful
- National Center on Accessibility
- Nez Perce National Historic Trail
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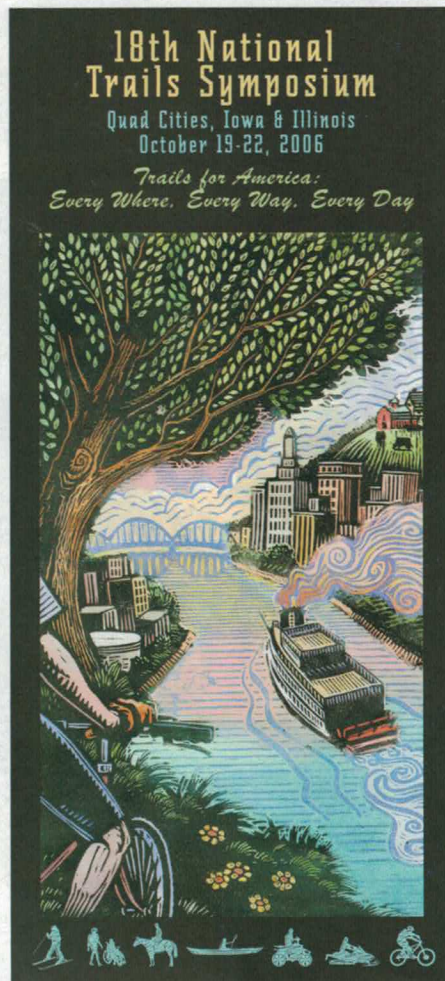
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Thank You to Dana Bell for Years of Service

AFTER SERVING FOR SEVEN YEARS as Secretary, Dana found it necessary to resign from the American Trails Executive Board due to increasing time demand with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council's (NOHVCC) expanding workshop program.

The American Trails Board would like to extend their deepest appreciation to Dana for being such a great Board member and dedicated Secretary. Because of Dana's contributions, American Trails is a stronger organization today!

Interior Secretary Gail Norton resigns

INTERIOR SECRETARY GAIL NORTON tendered her resignation to President Bush on March 10, 2006 after five years as Secretary of Interior. Norton was the first woman to serve in this position.

During Ms. Norton's tenure, the Interior Department promoted a number of programs involving public lands including the President's Healthier US initiative and the continuation of Take Pride in America, a public/private partnership and volunteer stewardship program.

The official announcement by the Interior Department can be found at the American Trails website at www.americantrails.org/NewsAction.

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Art on the Trails

Volunteers and Donors Create Trailside Tree Mural

By Terry Whaley

A new mural along Jordan Creek Greenway celebrates urban forestry and trees. Ozark Greenways and members of Springfield, Missouri's Tree City U.S.A. Committee conceived the idea in 2004. Within two-months funding for the first phase was in place from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Ozark Greenways. The entire project was privately funded at a cost of only \$7,000.

Phase one was dedicated on Arbor Day, 2004, and the second phase of the mural was funded and dedicated on Arbor Day, 2005. Members of city council, parks board, and Tree City U.S.A. Committee painted in the final brush strokes.

Farley Lewis was the artist for the project, which highlights the value and role of trees in the community throughout history. The mural also depicts native trees found in the Ozark forests of Missouri. Fun facts and trivia about trees are also incorporated into the design.

The mural is six feet high and covers two 50-foot long bridge abutments which each face the Jordan Park Trail. Tree plantings to accent and play off the mural are planned for this year, and a third phase has been thought about as the high arching bridge supports have generated some creative thought as to the possibilities.



Mural project on the Jordan Creek Greenway in Springfield, Missouri.

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It's decision time, dear friends

By Roger Bell,
Vice-Chair, American Trails

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We promote more open space
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Don't let our efforts pause
Cause there isn't enough time
For each of us to do
What together we accomplish
A fresh elixir we will brew
Trails are for all of us
They connect us to the earth
Join us as a member
Be a part of our re-birth

Pam has told you many reasons
This rhyme is my appeal
Can't we somehow reach your heart
And right now seal the deal?
Aw, come on now, dear friend
Don't let this moment go
Smile and commit right now
And pony up the dough!

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New Work to Improve Trails

Test sites sought for National Trails Surface Study

THE NATIONAL TRAILS SURFACE STUDY is underway and recruiting of participants has begun for participation as early as Spring 2006. What surfaces and amendments can be used to make trails accessible to people with disabilities? The National Center on Accessibility hopes to be able to answer this question by implementing the National Trails Surface Study. The goal of this 5 year study is to determine which trail surface applications prove to be accessible as well as environmentally friendly. Participants can be from federal, private or public agencies and selection will continue until the targeted number of trail segments is achieved.

This longitudinal study on various trail surface applications will include diverse geographic zones anticipating that we will be able to determine what surface applications prove to be accessible in varying climatic conditions. Control surfaces will include native soil and accessible aggregate surfacing material without stabilization. Soil stabilization products include: polymers, enzymes, polyurethanes and organic plant material.

In order to determine what impact grade has on various surface applications, native soil, accessible aggregate surfacing material and soil stabilization products will be tested at:

- A 30 feet minimum segment at 0-5% grade
- A 30 feet minimum segment at 5-8.33% grade
- A 30 feet minimum segment at 8.33-10% grade
- A 10 feet minimum segment at 10-12% grade

Each site will be provided with the soil stabilization products and application instructions. Guidance and technical assistance will be available upon request. Each site will be asked to periodically test the firmness and stability of the trail surfaces with the rotational penetrometer. NCA will lend sites a rotational penetrometer for testing. It will be the participant's responsibility to assume the remaining costs of the project including design, construction, materials and trail surface monitoring.

By participating in the National Trails Surface Study, agencies will have the opportunity for national visibility for their project and will be contributing to providing answers to

questions about surfaces that are most often asked by people looking for technical assistance. Accessible trails create more recreational opportunities for people with disabilities to participate with their family members and friends therefore increasing the number of prospective visitors and revenue.

For more information about the NCA National Trails Surface Study, visit: ncaonline.org/trails/research/. To apply, please complete the Participant Information Form: http://ncaonline.org/trails/research/cover_letter.html. Contacts for the study include Gary Robb, Executive Director and Laura Weatherbee, Accessibility Specialist and Trails Study Coordinator at (812) 856-4422 or ncatrails@indiana.edu.

New IMBA Book Will Cover Managing Mountain Biking

THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING Association has a new book in the works. It will cover the subject of "Managing Mountain Biking." IMBA's 2004 book Trail Solutions zeroed in on designing and constructing trails. The next book will focus on operating those trails.

Scheduled to print in the fall of 2006, the book will be a compilation of proven methods and innovative approaches to solving common trail management problems. It will help land managers and volunteers overcome issues such as user conflict, risk management, safety, environmental impacts, and funding.

The new book will also provide the tools to help plan and design new trail projects. A team of more than 20 experts will pool their collective knowledge and experience to shape the book. Project director and managing editor is Pete Webber, IMBA communications director.

Active Living Research

One of the goals of Active Living Research is to understand what it is about a place that encourages active living. Trails and parks are an important resource that can help many Americans be healthier and more active. Research on this topic is posted on the Internet by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by San Diego State University. Click on the "Research" tab at: www.activelivingresearch.org/index.php.



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New Board Members Join Us

Bob Walker Brings Long State Experience to Board

AMERICAN TRAILS WELCOMES BOB WALKER back onto the Board! Bob Walker has served as the State Trails Programs Coordinator for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks since 1991. His primary responsibilities include administration of the Recreational Trails Program, the OHV Trails Program, and the Snowmobile Trails Program. Prior to this, Bob served as the State Trails Programs Coordinator for Iowa from 1985-1991.



Bob has held these leadership roles: Chair, National Association of OHV Program Managers, 2002-2005; Chair, American Trails, 1992-1996; Coordinator of 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996 National Trails Symposia; Chair, International Association of Snowmobile Administrators, 1988-1990. Bob is also a member of the National Association of State Trail Administrators.

American Trails gave Bob a Trails Advocate award in 2002 in recognition of his efforts to spearhead new ideas on OHV education in Montana that have resulted in significantly reduced user conflicts and improved OHV user ethics.

Bob stated in his letter of interest to the Board, "I have participated and watched the Board and volunteers create a proud and valuable organization that provides opportunities for a broad array of trail recreationists to learn and share together and provide trails for all Americans!"

Karen Umphress of Minnesota Takes Over for Dana Bell

FOLLOWING THE RECENT RESIGNATION of NOHVCC Senior Project Coordinator Dana Bell from the American Trails Board of Directors, the Board has welcomed a new member who also has ties to NOHVCC. Karen Umphress of Jordan, Minnesota, has been an enthusiastic advocate of on- and off-highway riding for several years in her home state.



Karen currently serves as a Government Relations officer with the Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association, Minnesota's local district of the American Motorcyclist Association. In addition to motorcycle riding, Karen enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, and canoeing.

"One of my primary goals as an American Trails Board member is to help further the education of the public as to what the sport of OHVing is, and isn't," said Karen. "There are so many myths out there about people who ride off-highway vehicles that need to be corrected, and my experience with the NOHVCC will help me out in that area considerably."

"What I'm really looking forward to is working with such a wildly diverse group of trail users," Umphress continued. "Even though we all recreate a bit differently from one another, ultimately we all have the same goal of furthering and enhancing our recreational trail opportunities on our public lands."

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The Trail Ahead Needs ALL of Us

By Roger Bell, Vice-Chair, American Trails

WHEN I READ BOB SEARNS' VISIONARY ANALYSIS— on page 38 in our new "Trail Tracks" op-ed section— of ways in which the natural and created environment, and trails in particular, impact and reflect our shared consciousness, I was moved to offer a few additional thoughts inviting your participation.

I am so pleased that Bob is taking the helm of our organization alongside our small but inspired staff, and some darn good fellow Board members. American Trails is in good hands indeed!

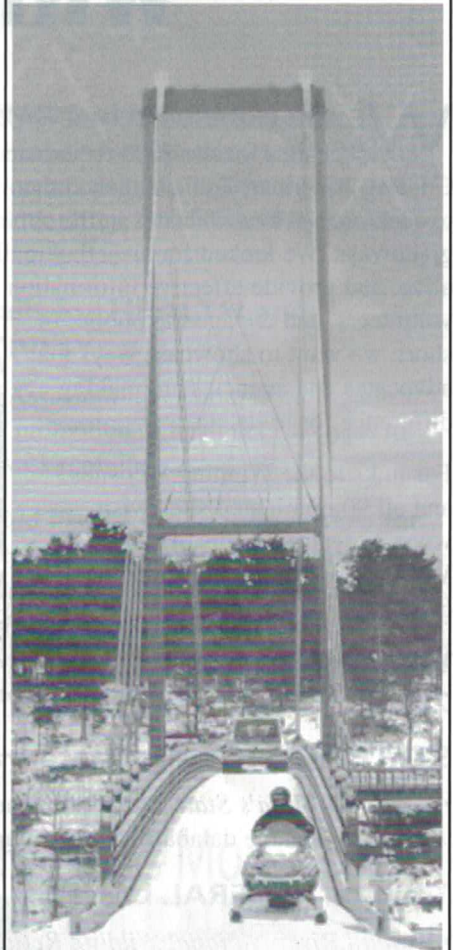
I know if you are reading this that you too want healthy trails and are willing to lend your support to make this movement thrive and prosper.

What we need is to promote this shared vision. Trails are emblematic of a can-do, soul-deep ethic intimately connecting us with our roots. They speak to our healthy impulses, they touch into spiritual and practical appreciation for what is earthy, natural, and beautiful, they are essential components of our re-creational needs, blending wise sculpting of the land with keen aesthetic sensibility.

They invite a volunteer spirit and skilled professional stewards. They help us appreciate viscerally what we deeply value but can't always articulate. American Trails seeks to honor and spread that spirit widely and gracefully, to bring together a sometimes fractured and unsure alliance that we believe can and should stand together for our— and really everyone's— mutual benefit.

We need your support, financially and energetically! We need your passion and participation. Join American Trails and let's together keep these vital threads that bind us alive and well.

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American Trails Website Contest

Winning Websites

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the Winning Websites for the 2005 American Trails Website Contest. American Trails launched the only national contest to seek out the best websites in the cyberworld of trails and greenways. We looked for sites that really make trails come alive, and provide effective information delivery, support volunteers, and engage the public. In short, we want to showcase ways that advocates and agencies are making a difference for trails.

For links to the Winning Websites and all 90 nominated sites, visit www.AmericanTrails.org.

We'll announce the next annual contest later in 2006!

WINNING WEBSITES for 2005

STATE AGENCY site (state trail or program):

- *South Carolina's State Trails* offers hundreds of trails with maps, searchable database, and program information.

Trails on FEDERAL LANDS:

- *Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge* includes the Wood Duck Nature Trail.

COMMUNITY trails system site (town or county):

- *Trailnet* promotes bike/ped activities and trails through events, education, and public-private partnerships for the bi-state St. Louis region.

Trail ORGANIZATION or club website:

- *Florida Trail Association's* website has also undergone a major overhaul in the past year, expanding information on hiking the Florida Trail and related trails, plus new information on safety and trail maintenance issues.
- Honorable Mention: *Saco Bay Trails* is working to acquire permanent public access to recreational hiking trails in the Saco Bay, Maine area.

PERSONAL site (for an individual who has developed a site on his or her own):

- *Bike To Beach* is Jim Rucquoi's vision of a bike route from Orlando to the ocean, rideable today in both on and off-road segments. The hope is to generate interest in the dream through the website.

AmericanTrails.org



WINNING WEBSITE

Award winners are entitled to use the "Winning Website" logo on their sites.

Designated NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL website:

- *Rivanna Trails Foundation* works to create and protect natural footpaths, which follow the Rivanna River and its tributaries through Virginia.

PRESENTATION of PLANS and proposals for trail projects:

- *Chinook Trail Association* is a citizen organization dedicated to the development of a 300-mile loop trail encircling the Columbia River Gorge.

TRAIL TOUR or virtual visit:

- *The San Francisco Bay Trail* includes photos of every section of the trail, both built and proposed, as well as some 360 degree views.
- Honorable Mention: *Miami Valley RailTrails* has maps of every trail in Ohio's Miami Valley, plus 3,400 images for a virtual tour of each trail.

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American Trails Website Contest for 2005

See links to all the sites at www.AmericanTrails.org/webcon05.html

GRAPHICS and site design:

- *Northwest Woodland Services* website (designed by Natureshape LLC) provides an illustrated education in what trail contractors do and what is involved in trail planning, design, and construction.

Best use of PHOTOGRAPHS:

- The "Trails" area of *Jefferson County Trail System* includes nicely organized photos of historic buildings, bridges, interesting features, and trail sections.
- Honorable Mention: The *Huron River Greenway* uses an interesting grid of photos to illustrate the trail and many related points of interest.

Trail-related BUSINESS or PRODUCT:

- *Cedar Valley Nature Trail* is owned and maintained by Webworks7, a computer services company, and provides a complete guide to the 52-mile linear park.

Promotion of Trail ACCESS:

- The Access Project of *Illinois Paddling Council* promotes safe, legal, and adequate access for watercraft to the waterways of Illinois.

Recognize and promote VOLUNTEERISM:

- An "American treasure needs your help" reads the banner on the *Appalachian Trail Conservancy* website which covers maintenance, environmental, and conservation, as well as trail information for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Best site for KIDS and FAMILIES:

- *Utah Mountain Biking* has trail guides with maps and photos; they'll arrange to get kids on a new trail to check it out, and "if they don't think it sucks too bad, it will be added to our Family Ride section."
- Honorable Mention: *klimb.org* provides free software to plan bike and trail routes interactively on topographical maps and understand their distance and topography.

TRAVEL and TOURISM site for trails:

- *Bike the KATY Trail* is run by Ray Scott. It features every town on the 265-mile trail with details of accommodations, businesses, and services.

TRAILS TRAINING and education site:

- *Backcountry Trail Patrol Association* is an education and assistance organization that provides services to all trail users in Minnesota through x-c ski and snowshoe patrol in winter, and mountain bike patrol in summer.

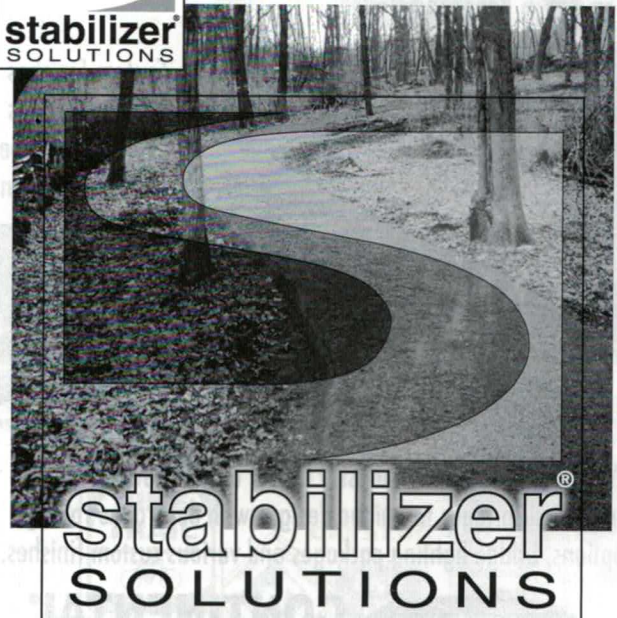
Promotion of trails for HEALTH and PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

- *Four Seasons Trail Association* is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of healthier lifestyles for the people of Madawaska, Maine.

American Trails would like to thank John Ansbro for his extensive research on the dozens of nominated websites for this contest. He has helped out every year with the website contest. John, who is a city planner in Evanston, Indiana, has also provided us with news items and websites to check out for many years.



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News on Funding

Keep informed on legislation and funding opportunities: visit www.AmericanTrails.org and click on "What's Hot"

Trails would be trimmed in Administration's FY 07 budget

From the American Hiking Society

PRESIDENT BUSH RELEASED the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 (Oct 2006-Sept 2007) budget recently, kicking off the federal budget cycle. Federal land management agencies face austere budget requests for FY 07, with several trail and recreation programs taking a big hit.

The proposed FY07 budget includes:

- \$100 million cut for the National Park Service (although it includes a \$24 million increase for park operations)

- Termination of the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a critical source of funding for close-to-home parks and recreation
- \$91 million for the federal side of LWCF, down from approx. \$115 million in FY 06. This essential program funds land acquisition for parks, trails, and open space
- \$15 million cut to Forest Service Capital Improvement and Maintenance for trails
- 4% cut to Forest Service Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage programs down to \$250.8 million
- \$1.36 million cut to Bureau of Land Management Recreation and Wilderness management
- Deep cuts to the National Landscape Conservation System which will directly affect the BLM's ability to protect the cultural and ecological values, maintain interpretative facilities, and ensure visitor safety and security among these special 26 million acres

The House and Senate will prepare their budgets (which may or may not match the President's) over the next several months and then they will "conference" later in the year to reconcile the differences and pass a final budget in the fall.

2007 budget cut of \$500,000 proposed for RTCA Program

From the Rivers and Trails Coalition

THE RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service is targeted for major cuts again this year. The Rivers and Trails Coalition not only opposes this proposed cut, but calls for a program budget increase, requesting an appropriation of \$10.3 million for RTCA in fiscal year 2007.

RTCA is a technical assistance program that works for parks and open spaces by supporting conservation partnerships, promoting volunteerism, and encouraging physical activity. RTCA currently has about 75 program staff compared to about 90 staff in 2002.

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More News from Washington

“Right-To-Ride” Legislation Would Protect Trail Access

THE “RIGHT-TO-RIDE Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005” (HR 2966 and S 781) is intended to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, wilderness areas, national monuments, and other designated areas that are administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, or the USDA Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use.

Specifically the legislation mandates that the lands should be managed by the federal agencies “to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use.” For additional information, visit the American Horse Council website: www.horsecouncil.org.

Recissions Threaten Trails and Bike-Ped Funding Levels

From the Coalition for Recreational Trails

IN AUGUST 2005, WE CELEBRATED a major victory for the Recreational Trail Program (RTP)— inclusion in the SAFETEA-LU legislation with a very healthy increase in funding. By year’s end, the Congress had added some uncertainty to funding for all SAFETEA-LU programs. The action came through three “recissions”— Congressional actions which actually take back previously appropriated money. Recissions are not new, but the 2005 actions— prompted in large measure by 2005 hurricane damage— are unusually large and threatening.

The mandated spending cuts may be taken from major TEA programs as well as unobligated funding from prior years and other programs, including RTP, Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) programs. It gives states discretion as to where the cuts are made— reductions do not have to be even among affected programs. The FHWA issued guidance to the states on this reduction on December 28, 2005.

This means that your RTP funds could be exempted from cuts entirely or could be reduced very sharply. Every state is likely to react uniquely to this challenge.

The bottom line is this: RTP funding will drop from the \$70 million we had hoped for in FY06, but the amount of the drop will not be clear for some time. And the drop in RTP funding in every state is completely unknown at this time. If the RTP funds were reduced proportionate to the total rescission, and if states were forced to reduce spending from FY06 dollars only, we would lose about \$5.5 million. But there are some key areas of jeopardy:

- 1) unobligated RTP funds from FY05 and prior;
- 2) states where DOT decision-makers favor traditional highway projects over programs like RTP.

Keep informed on legislation and funding opportunities: visit www.AmericanTrails.org and click on “What’s Hot.”

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Opinions and Ideas

Gray City, Green City; Gray Planet, Green Planet

By Robert Searns, Chair, American Trails

IT WAS TO BE the event of all events, the show stopper of all show stoppers. It would celebrate the emerging greatness of America on the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus. It was to be a triumph of technology, a triumph of culture, a triumph of art and beauty over the still bleak and oppressive 19th Century urban industrial landscape.

The World's Columbian Exposition was all of these things and more. Also known as the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, it was a benchmark of hope and greatness. It brought together the great civic leaders, the captains of industry, and the best designers of the day including the likes of Frederick Law Olmsted, Daniel Burnham, and Louis H. Sullivan.

These planners and architects envisioned and designed the "White City" with its spectacular exhibit halls and canals. Olmsted, the father of landscape architecture, created a beautiful green landscape, not a fussy garden or contrived replica, but a bucolic celebration in the midst of a city — an ideal of how people and nature could and should live together.

The White City was built and then demolished more than a century ago, but its far-reaching legacy lives on. It became a model of what a group of committed individuals could accomplish with a vision. Its ideas and its examples inspired a national City Beautiful movement. Cities like Denver and Kansas City were transformed when their leaders returned from the Exposition to create new parks and waterways. Denver's greenway system, in fact, can be traced to Mayor Robert Speer being wowed in Chicago.

About the same time, Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot began to hatch their vision of a national parks and national forest system. Roosevelt epitomized the "can-do" spirit of that era and, though many may not know this, he was also a dedicated naturalist. He wanted to preserve the

"While trails and greenways might not be the big answer to some of the big questions — maybe, like the White City, they can inspire bigger thoughts and bigger actions."

awe of places wild and give all Americans — both the elite and the common — ownership in a green legacy.

There was a dark undercurrent during these times as well. Erik Larson, in his book *The Devil in The White City*, chronicles this struggle between hope and neglect, between the corrupt and the inspired, between the banal and the visionary. He said the White City showed Chicagoans (and the world) that life can be more than the dank, gray, polluted landscape they were accustomed to; that economic prosperity need not eclipse natural beauty, the human spirit, and civic pride. In fact these three elements do best when wedded. It also portrays the vision and perseverance — undaunted by naysayers — of the leaders of that time to make the vision a reality.

A century later, we are witnessing these same cross currents. Indeed, today, our planet is like a city more tightly interconnected by jet planes and computers than were the neighborhoods of 19th century Chicago. Once again, the gray and banal threaten. People hunger for leadership. Again, we need visionaries; we need the Gifford Pinchot's and the Teddy Roosevelt's. We need the Burnham's and the Olmsted's. As public lands are threatened, as ice caps melt, we again need that vision.

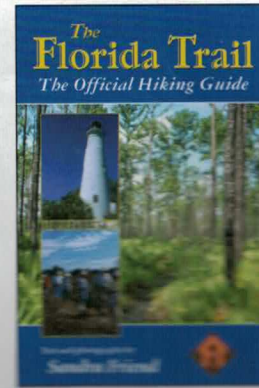
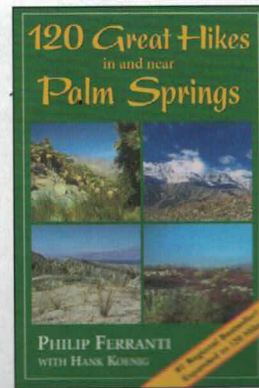
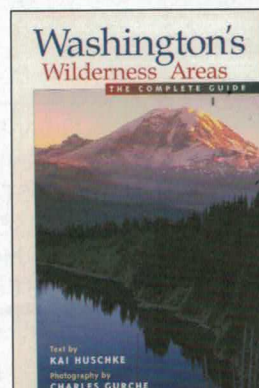
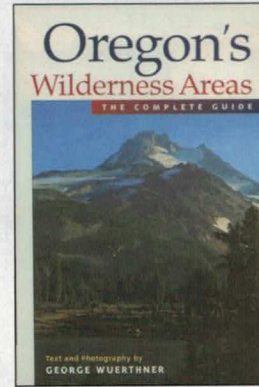
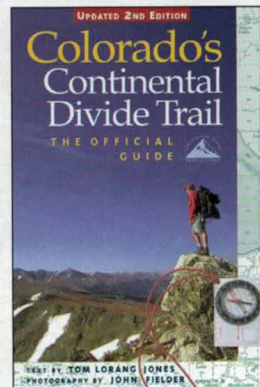
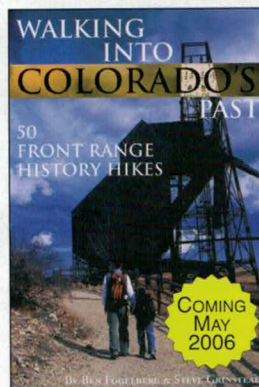
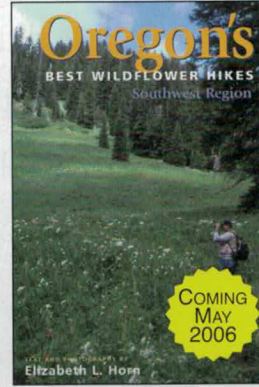
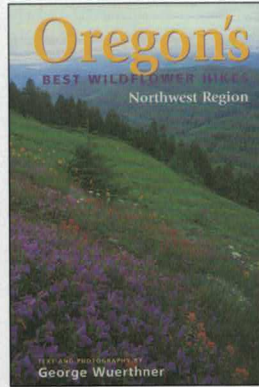
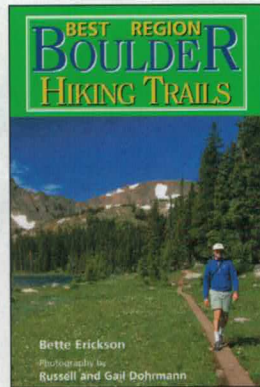
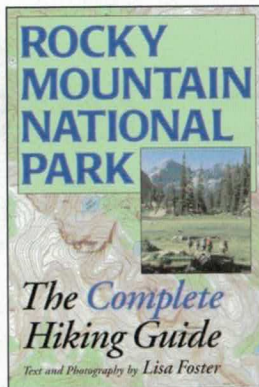
The trails and greenway movement has been emerging, hopefully, as a part of that vision. Civic leaders across the North American landscape, even across the continents are pursuing that vision, and hundreds of communities have been transformed. While trails and greenways might not be the big answer to some of the big questions — maybe, like the White City, they can inspire bigger thoughts and bigger actions. We hope so. We also hope you will come to the Quad Cities this fall to the 18th National Trails Symposium. We also hope you will contribute your stories, opinions, and ideas to the American Trails website at www.AmericanTrails.org and to this publication. Jump on board! You are needed more than ever!

Robert Searns is a principal of Greenway Team, Inc., and works with communities nationwide on greenways, trails, and outdoor resource conservation.

"Once again, the gray and banal threaten. People hunger for leadership. Again, we need visionaries; we need the Gifford Pinchots and the Teddy Roosevelts."

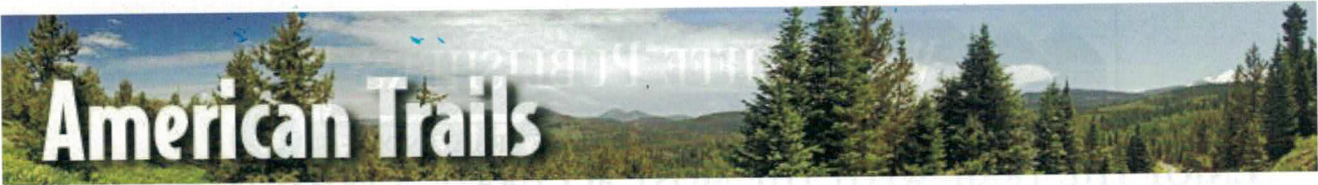
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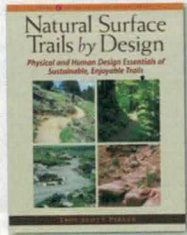
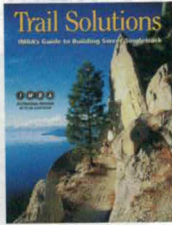
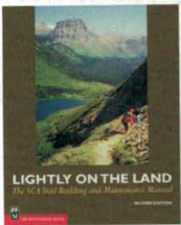
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