January 2021

What is a Trail?

We help you with defining a trail corridor in law, policy, and planning.

*Read more...*


Guidance on signage to keep everyone on trails safe, as well as free examples of production artwork for COVID-19 trail signs.

*Read more...*

Check out the American Trails Business Directory

Search thousands of trail related...
Used Steel Well Casings Make Better Culverts

The next time you need some culverts on your trail try used steel casings. Read more...

National Recreation Trail Highlight

Texas recently got their first National Water Trail with the newly designated Trinity River Paddling Trail. Read more...

Introducing: Outdoor F.U.T.U.R.E.

Led by a racially and ethnically diverse group of leaders, this outdoor equity initiative aims to build momentum by addressing the systemic barriers to nature and the outdoors that exist for youth in our country. The creation of a fund will ensure large scale, long term, secure investments in programs across the nation to serve our youth through meaningful outdoor recreation, and nature-based education experiences. Read more...

American Trails has Received a Strong Parks, Strong Communities Grant

American Trails is one of 36 park partner organizations to receive a Strong Parks, Strong Communities capacity building grant from the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. This grant will enable American Trails to work with other organizations towards an agreed upon set of “Trail Core Competencies.” The full list of grantees can be found on the National Park Foundation’s blog...
Trail News and Notes
Click on each article to read more

- (International) Highways England Accused of Demolishing Bridges that Could Link People-Powered Rail Trails
- (National) 10,000 Miles of National Park Trails Restored in 16 states
- (National) Eight of the Best ATV Trails in America
- (National) Now Here’s a Challenge: Hike America’s Three Epic Trails—About 8,000 Miles—in Nine Months
- (National) On the Early Women Pioneers of Trail Hiking
- (Kansas) On Foot, Hoof, or Wheels: Group Plans Trail Systems Around Plainville
- (Minnesota) Duluth Making Lake Superior Trail More Resistant to Climate
- (New York) 750-Mile Empire State Trail Completed with ‘Iconic’ Bridge in Central New York
- (Oregon) Photo Story: A Year of Trail Building Through a Pandemic in Oregon
- (Texas) Plan to Connect San Antonio to Austin with 100-Mile Trail
- (West Virginia) Five Things to Know About America’s Newest National Park

Planning, design, mapping and sustainable sign products for parks and trails

Resources and Training

Join Our Facebook Group "Trail Workers of America"
American Trails advances the development of diverse, high quality trails and greenways for the benefit of people and communities. This group is created for trail workers, planners, volunteers, and more to connect, ask questions, and discuss trail related issues. Join here...

Information Management Skills and Competencies
Database management; website development; trail and facility inventories; trail assessment and maintenance records; identifying and gathering needed information. Read more...

World Trails Network Magazine: Trails & Beyond
Trails & Beyond is a content rich publication with relevance to the international trails industry. In December 2020 they released their 5th edition. Read more...

When Snowmobilers Meet Others on the Trail
Practical problem solving for shared-use winter trails. Read more...

Models for Equine-Based Use of State Fish and Wildlife Lands
In June of 2009, the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource examined three models—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New Mexico—for equine-based use and enjoyment of state game lands (commonly known as Wildlife Management Areas or WMAs) and formulated general recommendations for horsemen in other states seeking access to the same. Read more...

Training Calendar and Volunteer Opportunities
Check out our training calendar for upcoming conferences and events. You can also find volunteer opportunities here. If you have an opportunity for us to post, please email trailhead@americantrails.org.

Seeking Learning Credits?
American Trails offers learning credits for our Advancing Trails Webinar Series, our International Trails Symposium and Training Institute, and other trail-related conferences, workshops, and webinars. Read more...

Featured Trail Industry Manufacturer: Reliance Foundry Co. Ltd.
Reliance Foundry is a leading supplier of architectural site furnishings that assist in trail delineation, access restriction, and pathway lighting. Learn more about this company...

Featured Trail Job: Community Outreach Manager for the Florida Trail Association
The Community Outreach Manager will support and expand the statewide volunteer program on the Florida Trail. This position works within the Trail Operations team, in partnership with the US Forest Service, to set and achieve program goals. Read more...

Free January Webinars
If you missed any of our live webinars, don’t fret! We record all of our webinars which are available for download at any time in our online store. Each webinar also offers a closed caption transcript and learning credits are offered for most. View a list of all of our upcoming and archived webinars...

- January 12 – Expedition Antarctica (and Beyond): How I Learnt to Sail
- January 21 – Making Meaningful Spaces: A Brief Survey of Integrative
We plan to continue to offer increased options for training via our Advancing Trails Webinar Series in place of the many conferences that have been canceled/postponed this year. We will continue to hold one webinar per week, when possible. It is also our intention to continue to make all of these webinars FREE to the public. But we need your sponsorship dollars to help make this possible!

All webinars noted below have partner sponsorships available ($250) but only the ones marked with an asterisk (*) have public sponsorships available ($3,000 – listed as main sponsor with more recognition). We added MORE benefits for public sponsors in 2021. Email candace@americantrails.org to become a sponsor today and learn more.

Early 2021 Webinars (With Dates):

- January 21, 2021 – Making Meaningful Spaces: A Brief Survey of Integrative Active Transportation (Sponsored by iZone Imaging, partner sponsor Areté Structures)
- January 28, 2021* – Brownfields to Trails: Steps to Success
- February 4, 2021 – From Industrial Site to Trail Destination (Sponsored by South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; partner sponsor Voss Signs)
- February 11, 2021 – The Catalytic Impact of Trails (Sponsored by South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; partner sponsor Cycle Forward)
- February 18, 2021* – Collective Impact and Sustainable Trails
- February 25, 2021* – Journeys North: A Thru-Hike of the Pacific Crest Trail
- April 29, 2021* – Assessing Trails: LiDAR Assisted Trail Topography Evaluation (LATTE) (Partner sponsor Voss Signs)

Early 2021 Webinars (Dates TBD):

- Integrating Trails into Park Planning: A How To (Sponsored by South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism)
- Estimating Trail Costs and Return on Investment (Sponsored by South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism)
- Wheels and Legs: How Well Do They Mix? Addressing Nonmotorized Trail User Conflicts*
- Dealing with Trail Maintenance Backlog Forum* (Partner sponsor Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado)
- Policy and Trails*
- Other ideas...