



National Recreation Trails

NRT NEWS

FALL 2001

News and resources for National Recreation Trails managers

National Recreation Trails: a celebration of America

Why are we emphasizing National Recreation Trails? Because trail groups, states, and federal agencies agree that the NRT Program is a great way to celebrate America's trails and greenways. Even as we struggle with budgets and priorities, more people than ever are using trails, and more are volunteering to help care for our parks and public lands.

The NRT Program grew out of a realization that we need as many tools as possible for preserving our trails. To keep our trails system healthy and growing we need to publicize the efforts of volunteers, communities, and agencies on behalf of our pathways. We would like to thank all these people, as well as the NRT managers, for being part of America's community of trails and celebrating with us:

- Trails that embody America's values of diversity, community, and volunteerism
- Trails that make our communities more livable
- Trails that showcase the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat
- Trails that bring nature to those with disabilities
- Trails that teach creativity and problem solving
- Trails that celebrate America's history and future
- Trails that celebrate freedom and the great outdoors

NRT managers have new e-mail news group

New this fall is an e-mail newsgroup only for National Recreation Trail managers at Yahoo! Groups, sponsored by the National Park Service and hosted by American Trails. Our goal is to keep managers of NRTs informed about the NRT Program and provide a variety of resources which may be of interest. We will periodically send information about NRT benefits, promotional ideas, and news from NRTs around America.

You are also welcome to post questions for other NRT managers, provide news and event information, and share ideas or concerns about the NRT Program. You'll receive occasional e-mail messages from the group, but we promise not to fill your mailbox!

To learn more about the nrtmanagers group or to read past messages to the group, please visit the website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nrtmanagers>. The group is hosted by Stuart Macdonald of American Trails. He can be reached at MacTrail@aol.com.

Subscribe to the NRT Managers e-mail newsgroup

If you haven't received a welcome message from the newsgroup, that means we don't have your correct e-mail address. To subscribe, please send an e-mail with the name of the NRT you manage and your contact information to amtrails@futureone.com.

The North Umpqua Trail

in Oregon was started in 1978. It was completed in 1996 through the cooperative efforts of the Umpqua National Forest, Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management, Douglas County Park Department, and many dedicated volunteers. The path parallels the North Umpqua River eastward for most of its 79 miles, and the BLM's 11 miles are designated as a NRT. The first 1300 feet to Deadline Falls Watchable Wildlife Site provides easy access for persons with physical challenges.



Caring for America's...

NRT Program prepares for next round of applications

As the November 1st deadline draws near, National Recreation Trail (NRT) program partners are gearing up for the next round of applications. It is hoped that news of the program has spread and will draw even more applicants this year. At the latest NRT Roundtable meeting in June, both Federal and non-profit agency participants developed ways in which the designation process could be more efficient and beneficial to applicants.

Our goal is to have designations approved by April 15, thereby allowing sufficient time for trails to participate in National Trails Day events. The newly designated NRTs will receive an information package that will include tips for working with the media, NRT brochures, sample press releases, and more. The primary benefit of NRT designation continues to be the publicity gained



through the NRT website, new online database, and the *NRT News* publication.

Both American Trails and the National Park Service have made a strong commitment to the program's success and are working to expand the current benefits package.

New ideas for the package include details on funding opportunities, an e-mail newsgroup for trail managers, and updates on training opportunities.

There will also be one last coordinated attempt to update any remaining NRTs that still lack current information. If your NRT is missing information in the online database, please take a few moments to send us an update. Both the update form and application are available at

www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails.

If you have any questions, please contact either the NRT Program Coordinators in Washington, DC, or the NRT Contact in your region. The following is a list of National Park Service NRT Contacts.

National Park Service contacts for NRTs

| Office | Contact Person | Phone# | Fax# | E-mail |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Alaska | Kevin Keeler | (907) 271-1714 | (907) 271-1782 | kevin_keeler@nps.gov |
| Seattle (ID, OR, WA) | Bryan Bowden | (206) 220-4118 | (206) 220-4161 | bryan_bowden@nps.gov |
| Pacific Great Basin (CA, HI, NV) | Anne Dove | (323) 441-9307 | (323) 226-9235 | anne_dove@nps.gov |
| Intermountain (CO, MT, UT, WY) | Joy Lujan | (303) 969-2853 | (303) 987-6676 | joy_lujan@nps.gov |
| Santa Fe (AZ, NM, OK, TX) | Attila Bality | (505) 988-6092 | (505) 988-6097 | attila_bality@nps.gov |
| Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI) | Rory Robinson | (330) 657-2951 | (330) 657-2955 | rory_robinson@nps.gov |
| Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN) | Stacye Palmer | (504) 589-2866 ext. 140 | (504) 589-3851 | stacye_palmer@nps.gov |
| Boston (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT) | Doug Evans | (617) 223-5124 | (617) 223-5164 | douglas_evans@nps.gov |
| Philadelphia (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV) | Peggy Pings | (304) 293-2941 ext. 2446 | (304) 293-2441 | peggy_pings@nps.gov |
| NRT Coordinator, Washington, D C | Cherri Espersen | (202) 565-1193 | (202) 565-1204 | cherri_espersen@nps.gov |

NRT NEWS is the publication for managers and supporters of National Recreation Trails, published by American Trails in partnership with the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program. If you have an interesting story about your NRT, good photos to share, or volunteers to praise, please let us know. Thanks! —Stuart Macdonald, NRT NEWS editor.

American Trails, PO Box 1 1046, Prescott AZ 86304 • amtrails@futureone.com

...Community of Trails

National Recreation Trails are pathways to history

The National Historic Trails are not the only federally-recognized trails that preserve and interpret America's past. Many of our NRTs have a historic element, and celebrate notable figures, our Native American heritage, or early explorers.

Bartram Nature Trail

William Bartram was an early naturalist who explored the mountains of the southeast from 1773 to 1777. The trail which honors him is managed by Nantahala National Forest with help from the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society. Bartram journals, *Travels of William Bartram*, are vivid descriptions of the plants, animals, and Native American peoples he encountered. The trail was featured in the March 2001 issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

La Framboise Island Trail

The Lewis & Clark Expedition arrived here September 24, 1804. Almost 200 years later, the trail was featured at the annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. To add to the historic connections, for several months in 1999 Sioux Indian activists camped on La Framboise Island to protest a federal land deal. The 7-mile trail is managed by US Army Corps of Engineers.

Sheltoewe Trace Trail

The Shawnee adopted Daniel Boone into their tribe and gave him the name Sheltoewe, which means "Big Turtle." The NRT runs through Daniel Boone National Forest and Kentucky State Parks, following the route of Boone, early explorers, and later settlers crossing the Cumberland Gap into the Shawnee's ancestral lands.

Partners work together to finish a Pennsylvania NRT

The Great Allegheny Passage Trail celebrated the completion of the final 6 miles of the trail from McKeesport to Meyersdale. These trail miles mark 100 continuous miles of a 198-mile multi-use trail in Southwestern Pennsylvania that runs from Pittsburgh to Cumberland Maryland!

The Trails was one of 15 trails newly designated in 2001 by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton.

The Allegheny Trail Alliance, is a coalition of trail organizations that came together to advocate for and construct the Great Allegheny Passage Trail. Members of the coalition include the Friends of the Riverfront, Montour Trail Council, Steel Valley Trail Council, Youghiogheny River Trails North and South, and the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

NPS-RTCA has been a partner for many years most recently with support from Superintendent Don Briggs (a former RTCAer). The real success and credit goes to the trail organizations, the many volunteers, local officials, state and federal agencies who all formed a solid partnership to see this trail become a reality.

For more information, please contact Darla Cravotta, Rivers & Trails Program (412) 464-4459.



Resources on the Internet

For a wide variety of resources, articles, news, and ideas take a tour of the American Trails website at www.AmericanTrails.org. Once you've bookmarked the site you'll be able to access:

- **RESOURCES and LIBRARY:** Articles on a wide range of trails topics are filed by subject, for you to read or print out from your own computer. Topics include Funding, Federal Issues, Motorized Trails, Rail Trails, Trail Construction and Management, Accessible Trails, Trails and Wildlife, Federal Programs, and more.
- **AMERICA'S TRAILS State By State:** A page for each of the 50 states with active links to over 1,000 trail-related sites.
- **CALENDAR:** Nationwide events, conferences, and training opportunities in the trails and greenways field.
- **TRAIL TRACKS newsletter:** Current and back issues.

National Trails Symposium is opportunity to learn

Plan to join us next fall at the 16th National Trails Symposium, to be held November 13-17, 2002, at Grenelefe Resort in Haines City, Florida, 50 miles south of Orlando. The Symposium is sponsored by American Trails and the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Symposium is the only national gathering of all trail interests who believe their combined voices are the best way to strengthen trails for everyone. It includes educational sessions on topics such as:

- maintaining outdoor resources and wildlife
- developing more support for volunteers
- creating sustainable partnerships
- obtaining more funding for trails

- building strong local and organizations for trails
- promoting trail use as a means for mental, physical, and spiritual well-being

For more information see the National Trails Symposium website at www.AmericanTrails.org.

Off-Highway Vehicle trail managers to meet in 2002

The National OHV Program Managers conference will be April 11-14, 2002, near New Orleans. Topics will include safety and education information, funding alternatives, hunting and OHVs, economic impacts, design of OHV riding areas, OHV registration programs, and many other topics. Contact Bob Walker, State Trails Programs Coordinator with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at (406) 444-4585 or bwalker@state.mt.us.

For more info on the National Recreation Trails Program

Current NRT program information can be found at: www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails
American Trails serves as the lead nonprofit in collaboration with the National Park Service and partner groups.

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