



National Recreation Trails

NRT NEWS

SPRING 2003

News and resources for National Recreation Trails managers

NRT nominations received for designation in 2003

The following projects have been nominated for possible designation as National Recreation Trails this June by the Secretary of the Interior:

- **Central Arizona Project Trail (AZ):** urban trail/bikeway and rural shared-use trail
- **Big Dry Creek Trail (CO):** urban trail/bikeway
- **Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail (FL):** greenway; rail-trail; urban trail/bikeway
- **Peghorn Nature Park and Trails (FL):** nature trail
- **Great River Trail (IL):** greenway; rail-trail; urban trail/bikeway; snow trail
- **Rock Island State Trail (IL):** greenway, rail-trail
- **Cardinal Greenway (IN):** greenway, rail-trail
- **Cattail Trail (IN):** greenway; urban trail/bikeway; snow trail
- **Monon Greenway (IN):** rail-trail
- **Northwest Greenway Trail (IN):** greenway; urban trail/bikeway; snow trail
- **Smith's Island Nature Trail (IA):** nature trail
- **Cross Island Trail (MD):** greenway; backcountry
- **Galloway Creek Greenway (MO):** greenway; urban trail/bikeway
- **Village of Bluffton Pathway (OH):** greenway; rail-trail; urban trail/bikeway
- **Stavich Bike Trail (OH & PA):** rail-trail
- **Arrowhead Trail (PA):** rail-trail
- **Ernst Recreational Trail (PA):** greenway; rail-trail

- **Ghost Town Trail (PA):** rail-trail
- **Houtzdale Line Trail (PA):** greenway; rail-trail; snow trail
- **Luzerne County Rail-Trail (PA):** rail-trail
- **The Samuel Justus Trail (PA):** rail-trail
- **Cross Vermont Trail (VT):** greenway; rail-trail; urban trail/bikeway; snow trail
- **Pacific Northwest Trail, Olympic National Park Segment (WA):** backcountry

US Dept. of Agriculture has separate nomination path

We would like to remind you that the Secretary of Agriculture has authority for designating National Recreation Trails on land administered by that department (National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas) and associated lands. Nominations are handled by the USDA Forest Service.

See the details of the USDA Forest Service designation process for NRTs, including a list of Regional contacts: www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails. Trails on all other lands go through a designation process administered by the National Park Service.

Nationwide responsibility for the USDA process is with Jamie Schwartz, National Recreation Trails Program Coordinator, Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness, USDA Forest Service, P. O. Box 96090, Washington DC 20090; phone: (202) 205-1589; email: jschwartz01@fs.fed.us.

Celebrate your trail on National Trails Day!

National Trails Day is held the first Saturday in June each year. We encourage all NRT managers will consider an event to celebrate their trail in 2003. All kinds of events are sponsored each year, including trail building and maintenance, interpretive hikes, races, and trail dedication or ground breaking ceremonies. For information on the National Trails Day program call (301) 565-6704 or visit www.americanhiking.org.



New NRTs nominated for 2003 on

Massanutten Mountain Trail explores Virginia ridges

The Massanutten Mountain Trail journeys through the history and diverse natural areas of the Lee Ranger District on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. For 71 miles the trail overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east and the Great North Mountain to the west. Visitors can explore rocky creeks, passages, and hollows hidden by this mountainous terrain.

Massanutten Mountain is a 50-mile long, six-mile wide ridge of ancient sandstone rising from the broad valley of the Shenandoah River. During the Revolutionary War, George Washington ordered General Daniel Morgan to construct a road into this inner valley. Now known as Morgan's Road, it forms the Veach Gap portion of the Massanutten Trail. Elizabeth Furnace, located along the northern end of the Massanutten Trail is one of the few remaining pig iron furnaces.

During the Civil War, the Confederate and Union soldiers were ever present. The Shenandoah Valley was known as the bread-basket of the Confederacy and was the site of many battles. Signal Knob, an overlook on the Massanutten Trail located at the far north end of the Massanutten was used as a look-out and signal station by both Union and Confederate troops. Breast works used by both sides in defense of Signal Knob can still be seen.

In 1933, Camp Roosevelt located at the mid-point on the eastern ridge of the Massanutten Mountain, became the first Civilian Conservation Camp in the nation. The boys of Camp Roosevelt constructed much of the east side of the Massanutten Trail. Observant trail users can find old rock mile markers placed by the CCC.



Views from the Massanutten Trail



In the mid 1960s, members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) proposed the idea of a long distance circuit trail on the Massanutten Mountain. This idea was discussed off and on by PATC and the USDA Forest Service for about 20 years. In 1989, the USDA Forest Service and PATC began a cooperative effort to construct the western half of the trail. With this cooperative agreement, the volunteer trail crew

Massarock was created. This trail crew built 32 miles of the Massanutten Trail over a 10-year period. Most of the eastern half of the trail had been constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, by various Forest Service trail crews and by local historic use. A missing section on the eastern half was constructed by the Old Dominion 100-Mile Ride Club, an equestrian group. The Virginia Happy Trails Running Club contributed various efforts on both the western and eastern sections.

Next time you find yourself in the northern Shenandoah Valley, grab your hiking boots and backpack and come explore a part of your history! For more information on hiking the Massanutten Trail, visit the Lee Ranger District website at: www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee.



A paved section of the Massanutten Trail

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, P. O. Box 491797, Redding CA 96049-1797 • NRT@AmericanTrails.org

National Forests and Grasslands

Maah Daah Hey Trail links Dakota Prairie Grasslands

The Maah Daah Hey (MDH) trail is a 96-mile long recreational trail that winds its way through the rugged badlands and rolling prairies of western North Dakota. This area of canyons and gullies was carved into the landscape by perpetual wind and water erosion. The trail passes by Theodore Roosevelt's original ranch as well as other historic sites and areas of natural interest.

The name Maah Daah Hey is derived from the Native American Mandan language meaning "grandfather" or "long lasting," and is used to describe an area that has been around for a long time and deserving of respect.

As the backbone of the recreation program on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, the shared-use trail provides for backpacking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. It links six campgrounds, one at each trailhead and four others spaced roughly twenty miles apart. The trail also connects the three units of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. By a paved trail at its southern end, the trail accesses the historic city of Medora, a popular tourist destination.

The MDH Trail came into being as a partnership among North Dakota State Parks and Recreation, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the US Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Adopt-a-Trail groups help with maintenance and the state's Recreational Trail Program funds have been used to surface clay and sandy areas of the trail.

The Maah Daah Hey Trail Association was formed to manage, maintain, and promote the trail. In 2001 the International Mountain Biking Association gave the trail its most prestigious award, designation as an IMBA Epic Ride. And most recently, a national women's sports magazine named the Maah Daah Hey Trail among its top 18 outside sport destinations in the country.



Equestrians on the shared-use Maah Daah Hey

Tahoe Rim Trail is a great showcase for volunteerism

The National Recreation Trail designation for the Tahoe Rim Trail includes 96 miles of the 165-mile trail which runs along the ridges and mountain tops that encircle the Lake Tahoe Basin. A result of the dreams and dedicated efforts of thousands of volunteers, the trail was planned, built, and maintained in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Nevada State Parks, and other groups.

Trail construction was begun in 1984 and completed in the fall of 2001 as a multi-use trail open to hikers, equestrians, and in many areas, mountain bikers. Information on the trail and its resources are found at trailheads, visitor centers, and outdoor shops throughout the area. The Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA), with the support of its members and volunteers, will be the trail steward and caretaker for generations to come. Since its inception, over 10,000 volunteers have given over 200,000 hours.



At the annual Junior Trail Steward Workshop

Another key partner is the Pacific Crest Trail Association. The Tahoe Rim Trail shares 49 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and has pledged to maintain the shared trail section. Both organizations are working together to maintain the integrity of each trail with its different recreational uses, and to ensure that both trails are recognized as national treasures.

The Tahoe Rim Trail is a good example of a collaborative project between public agencies and nonprofit organizations. In the very sensitive ecological and cultural area of Lake Tahoe, these efforts have taken many years but will enable the long-term enjoyment, as well as conservation, of this magnificent public resource.

For more information on the Tahoe Rim Trail, visit www.tahoerimtrail.org.

Photo contest for NRTs will highlight diversity of trails

American Trails is sponsoring a contest for photographs of National Recreation Trails across the country. We will provide awards in several categories and show off entries on the NRT website. The goal is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails. We're looking for good photos in all seasons of trail users, features of interest, special facilities, management issues, construction, events, and volunteers.

The deadline is June 30, 2003. You may use digital formats (JPEG or TIFF) or slides or quality prints. Digital images may be emailed if attachments are under 1.5 mg. Otherwise please mail a CD (not CD-RW) or 100 mg. Zip disk to American Trails. Disks and photos will be returned if postage and a mailing label are enclosed.

Please limit entries to 10 photos per person and identify the NRT as well as the specific location on the trail.

By entering the contest you are giving us permission to use the photos on the websites of the NRT Program, American Trails, and the National Park Service, as well as their non-commercial publications. Send entries by mail to American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding CA 96049-1797 or by email to NRT@AmericanTrails.org.

Updating your NRT info

All NRTs are listed along with facts and complete contact information on the website at www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails. Click on the link to the NRT database to search for your trail's information. We want to thank the many USDA Forest Service trail managers who have recently updated their entries. If you have any changes, please send them to NRT@AmericanTrails.org.

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.

American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding CA 96049-1797 • NRT@AmericanTrails.org

National Recreation Trail Program Coordinator, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, 1849 C St., NW, (Org Code 2235), Washington DC 20240 • (202) 354-6920 • Fax (202) 371-5179

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