



National Recreation Trails

NRT NEWS

Summer 2004

News and resources for National Recreation Trails managers

Photo contest for NRTs is underway again in 2004

American Trails is again sponsoring a contest for photos of National Recreation Trails across the country. We will provide awards in several categories and show off all 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 of all types of trail users as well as features of interest, signs, special facilities, management issues, construction, and volunteers.

The deadline is December 31, 2004. Digital images (JPEG or TIFF) may be e-mailed if attachments are under 2 mb. Otherwise please mail a CD (not CD-RW). For traditional photography, submit slides or negatives (35mm only), which may be either color or black and white. We are unable to scan prints or other film sizes. Please limit entries to 10 photos per person and identify the NRT as well as the specific location on the trail.

For all the details see www.AmericanTrails.org/national_recreationtrails/photocon.html. By entering the contest you are giving us permission to use the photos for publicity and promotion of National Recreation Trails. Please send your entries to NRT@AmericanTrails.org or American Trails, P. O. Box 491797, Redding CA 96049.

New NRTs announced by U. S. Secretary of Interior

Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton used National Trails Day (June 5) to launch the "America's Public Lands Get Fit with US" initiative. Norton also announced the designation of 27 new recreation trails in 15 states, as part of the National Recreation Trails System. Get Fit with US is designed to promote a healthy lifestyle alliance among public health and recreation groups.

"Our efforts to promote trails for health and recreation are part of a larger partnership initiated by President Bush," Norton said. "These partnerships are using the vast interconnected outdoor recreation network of federal, state, and local lands and waters as a resource that can help provide inexpensive, enjoyable exercise for all Americans."

The theme for this year's National Trails Day is "Trails and Health— A Natural Connection." Norton noted that "By promoting the importance of recreational activities and physical fitness opportunities on our public lands and waters, we encourage Americans to stay active and healthy while enjoying the outdoors."

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The American Tobacco Trail

This 14-mile North Carolina rail-trail will eventually span more than 22 miles from downtown Durham to New Hill in Wake County. The trail provides the fastest-growing portion of Durham with a key community connection to area schools, parks, businesses, and places of worship. Trail users enjoy a number of recreational activities including biking, roller blading, and horseback riding. This shared-use greenway is a fine example of what can be achieved through a diverse partnership.



National Recreation Trails

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NRTs designated in 2004 range across 15 states

Norton designated the 27 trails listed below, adding 982 miles to the system which totals over 10,000 miles of designated National Recreation Trails:

- Arizona – Aspen Spring Trail
- Arkansas – Tunstall Riverwalk
- Florida – Clearwater East-West Trail
- Florida – Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
- Florida – Great Calusa Blueway
- Florida – Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail
- Illinois – Danada & Herrick Lake Regional Trail
- Illinois – Hennepin Canal Parkway
- Illinois – Springbrook Prairie Trail
- Indiana – Beyer Farm Trail
- Indiana – Delphi Historic Trails
- Indiana – Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage
- Maryland – Annapolis Rock Hiker Campground and Trail
- Mississippi – Longleaf Trace Trail
- North Carolina – American Tobacco Trail
- Oregon – Lower Macleay Trail
- Pennsylvania – Allegheny River Trail
- Pennsylvania – Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail
- Pennsylvania – Montour Trail
- Pennsylvania – Sandy Creek Trail
- South Carolina – Kings Highway Community Park Trail
- South Dakota – George S. Mickelson Trail
- South Dakota – Spirit Mound Summit Trail
- Texas – Angel of Goliad Trail
- Texas – Brushy Creek Regional Trail
- Virginia – Algonkian Regional Park Sanctuary Trail
- West Virginia – Hatfield-McCoy Trails



Artful Ways: supporting art and artists on NRTs

By Charles Tracy, National Park Service

Art is one of the best ways to strengthen the connection between people and trails. Across America and elsewhere, artists are employing a remarkably wide range of creative strategies to support all phases of trail activities, from design and development to stewardship and interpretation. In particular, art can be an effective tool for telling a trail's story compellingly and memorably.

Over the past few months, American Trails and the National Park Service have explored ways to support the creation of art on National Recreation Trails. Two specific initiatives are underway. First, working with art administrators and public art consultants from across the country, we have designed a survey to help us understand the current state of the art on trails in the US. The survey will document what kind of art can be found on trails today, how it was produced and funded, and benefits to trail managers and the trail community. The survey will be launched nationally in August to trail managers by email and will also be available on the American Trails website.

The survey findings will be presented at the upcoming National Trails Symposium, and will inform the design of our second initiative— a new program to fund art on National Recreation Trails. We have approached the National Endowment for the Arts for initial funding support and are developing an agreement with them. We will have more details about this program at the Symposium.

Sculpture along Portland's Willamette River Greenway



For more information and photos of the new NRTs see www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails.

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.

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Celebrate our community of trails

Spectacular new bridge opens on California NRT

The City of Redding held a “First Crossing” celebration to officially open the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay Exploration Park on July 4, 2004. The bridge is a link in the **Sacramento River Trail and Sacramento River Rail Trail**, designated as a National Recreation Trail in 2002. The festivities included a gala fundraiser, Native American bridge blessing ceremony, an exhibition of paintings of the Sundial Bridge by local artists, and the first viewing of “Angle of Inspiration,” a documentary film chronicling the construction of the Sundial Bridge.

On July 4 the opening ceremonies featured live music, a display by the Travis Air Force color guard, and a flag procession led by American Trails with over a hundred participants.



New Sundial Bridge on the Sacramento River NRT in Redding, California

The Sundial Bridge crosses the Sacramento River in the heart of Redding, California. Designed by Santiago Calatrava, the bridge links the north and south campuses of Turtle Bay and serves as a new downtown entrance for Redding's extensive Sacramento River Trail system. The 700-foot cable-stayed structure features an inclined, 217-foot pylon. The steel, glass and granite span evokes a sense of weightlessness and the translucent, non-skid decking provides for spectacular viewing at night. Plazas are situated at both ends of the bridge for public use; the north-side plaza stretches to the water so visitors can sit at the river's edge. The McConnell Foundation of Redding funded the majority of the bridge's \$23-million cost.

World renowned Spanish architect and engineer Santiago Calatrava conceived the Sundial Bridge's unusual design. Other notable works by Calatrava include the new PATH transportation terminal at the World Trade Center site in New York City and several projects at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, including the main stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies will be held.

Sponsors of the First Crossing events included the Mercy Medical Center, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Redding Bank of Commerce, US Bank, and Pepsi.

For more information and photos of the new bridge visit www.turtlebay.org/sundial/sundial.shtml.

New book on NRTs will highlight diversity of trails

American Trails is proud to be working with the authors of what will be a beautiful celebration of National Recreation Trails nationwide. Photographer **Charles Gurche** and author **Kai Huschke** will highlight the voices of 75 of the trails in *Trailing America: Our National Recreation Trails*. The team recently co-produced *Washington's Wilderness Areas: The Complete Guide* for Westcliffe Publishers.

The large format book will contain 150-175 photographs along with personal essays to illuminate the varied dimensions and natural splendor of each trail. Appendices will provide a list of all designated NRTs, their locations, suggestions on maps, and reference material to guide readers to the trails.

American Trails, as the manager of the NRT website and online database, was asked by the authors to help them select trails for the book. We have been working with our NRT partners— the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service— as well as trail managers, state trails programs, and trail organizations. We provided the authors with a suggested list that represent the wide range of geography, activities, and features of the National Recreation Trails across America.

From wilderness to cities to rural outposts to national parks, the National Recreation Trail program is an amazing national resource. The book will introduce many more Americans to these great trails.

National Trails Symposium will be in Austin Oct. 21-25

Looking for the best opportunity in 2004 to network with the nationwide trails community? Then join American Trails, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, City of Austin, Texas Trails Network, and a host of other supporters for the 17th National Trails Symposium, to be held in Austin, Texas, October 21-24.

Programs will feature state-of-the-art trail and greenway technologies, trends, and new initiatives. Expand your contacts with other advocates, land managers, planners, and trail builders. Learn about successful partnerships among agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and individuals.

For the latest information visit www.AmericanTrails.org and click on "National Trails Symposium."

Recognize your trail's volunteers and supporters

The National Trails Awards program provides recognition for the people and organizations who are working for our trails and greenways. One award will be given for each state in these two categories:

Trail Advocacy Award: For efforts to influence public policy relating to trail planning, trail protection, trail development, or maintenance.

Trail Worker Award: For commitment and efforts of a private or public sector individual in working for enhanced trail recreation in their local area or state.

To nominate an outstanding person or group, visit www.AmericanTrails.org and click on the link to National Trail Awards, or call American Trails at (530) 547-2060.

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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