

# National Recreation Trails news

## National Recreation Trail Applicants await designation

Hard work has paid off for supporters of the newly revitalized National Recreation Trail (NRT) program. Fourteen applications submitted this year— an increase from recent years— indicates a renewed interest in the NRT program throughout the U.S. The goal of the NRT program is to promote the use and care of existing trails and stimulate the development of new trails to create a national network of trails and realize the vision of *Trails for All Americans*. The following have applied for NRT designation:

- **Bluff Trail:** This Walterboro, South Carolina, trail combines forest, wildlife and watershed to provide both recreation and education opportunities.

- **Buffalo Creek Nature Area, VA:** This area and its trails provide a unique setting in which to educate visitors about native plant species.

- **Cowboy Recreation and Nature Trail:** This trail has been recognized as a Legacy Millennium



*South Carolina's Bluff Trail*

Trail, the nation's longest rail to trail conversion, and Nebraska's first State Recreation Trail.

- **Grand Trunk Trail:** This rail-trail links two towns and various trails in southern New England, the result of collaborative effort among local, nonprofit, state, and federal agencies.

- **Keel Spring Nature Trail, TN:** This trail is an example of multiple-use forest management, serving as an outdoor classroom, low-impact recreation route, and wildlife corridor.

- **Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway:** This multi-county greenway is part of the Florida National Scenic Trail. A wide variety of natural habitats can be found in this state recreation area.

- **Mary Ingles Trail System:** Comprised of six loop trails that offer scenic views of Kentucky's Yatesville Lake, the trail has received widespread multi-agency support and is recognized for its historic and natural resources.

- **Metacomet-Monadnock Trail:** Primarily a backcountry footpath for over 150 years, this multi-county Massachusetts trail traverses historic, cultural and natural resources.

- **Muddy Mountain Interpretive Nature Trail:** This trail's surface and gentle grade allow a variety of users to enjoy recreation close to home near Casper, Wyoming.



*Paseo del Morro along Puerto Rico's coast*

- **Paseo del Morro:** This trail dates back to the 1630's and provides spectacular views of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico and the Atlantic Ocean. Also a National Millennium Trail.

- **Pigeon Creek Trail System:** A backcountry trail in Norfolk Lake, Arkansas, it is known for scenic areas and mountain biking opportunities.

- **Prescott Peavine Trail:** This scenic rail-trail is Prescott, Arizona's first multi-use, non-motorized trail for all ages. It has also been accepted into the Arizona State Trails System.

- **Princeville Heritage Trail:** A project of Save America's Treasures, the dike is the first phase of a continuous trail system in Princeville, North Carolina.

- **Weston & Gauley Bridge Turnpike:** Listed on the Register of Historic Places, this trail precedes the Civil War and serves thousands of visitors to Burnsville Lake in West Virginia each year.

Once designated by the Secretary of the Interior, all National Recreation Trails will be included on the NRT web site being developed by American Trails and the National Park Service. We will be adding a database of all NRTs plus program information, trail descriptions, maps, and pictures.

*In addition to being added to the American Trails web site, NRTs enjoy an array of other benefits:*

- access to technical assistance and funding opportunities from National Park Service programs and the other NRT Program partners
- an NRT newsletter with program updates, newsworthy activities, technical information, trends and innovative solutions to trail issues from around the country
- networking and training opportunities
- assistance with recognition and special events highlighting the trail.

**For more information on the National Recreation Trails Program, see the American Trails web site:**

**[www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails).**

**Be sure to watch for the announcement of newly designated NRTs on National Trails Day in June!**