

A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Pathways

Across America

Winter 2014-2015



Pathways Across America

Pathways Across America is the only national publication devoted to the news and issues of America's national scenic and historic trails. It is published by the Partnership for the National Trails System under cooperative agreements with:



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Pathways serves as a communication link for the major partners of the following national trails:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

California National Historic Trail

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

Florida National Scenic Trail

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

New England National Scenic Trail

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

North Country National Scenic Trail

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Pony Express National Historic Trail

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

National Historic Trail



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

The National Trail System includes 3 main types of national trails: Scenic Trails, Historic Trails, and Recreation Trails.



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

NSTs and NHTs are designated by Congress (see specific descriptions below). The Partnership for the National Trails System (see left) is the nonprofit dedicated to facilitating stewardship of the Scenic and Historic Trails as a group.

National Recreation Trails

Offer local and regional trail experiences in thousands of locations around the country. The nonprofit American Trails encourages the stewardship of the National Recreation Trails (NRTs). NRTs are designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 National Historic Trails

Ala Kahakai NHT

California NHT

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

Iditarod NHT

Juan Bautista de Anza NHT

Lewis and Clark NHT

Mormon Pioneer NHT

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Old Spanish NHT

Oregon NHT

Overmountain Victory NHT

Pony Express NHT

Santa Fe NHT

Selma to Montgomery NHT

Star-Spangled Banner NHT

Trail of Tears NHT

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route NHT

National Historic Trails may be foot or horse paths, travel routes, roadways, or a combination of both designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many National Historic Trails have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they boast wilderness and hiking opportunities as beautiful and diverse as the National Scenic Trails.



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...



Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening Communities

through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.



Enhancing Access

to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and community outreach efforts.



Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



11 National Scenic Trails

The National Scenic Trails represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the US is traversed by a National Scenic Trail, from deserts, temperate rainforests, tundra, mountains, prairies, temperate deciduous forests, wetlands, and rivers. The National Scenic Trails offer natural corridors for wildlife preservation and unspoiled views, and they create fitness and outdoor leadership opportunities for all ages.

- Appalachian NST*
- Arizona NST*
- Continental Divide NST*
- Florida NST*
- Ice Age NST*
- Natchez Trace NST*
- New England NST*
- North Country NST*
- Pacific Crest NST*
- Pacific Northwest NST*
- Potomac Heritage NST*

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

The Winter 2014-2015 Pathways Cover features Caitlan Dowling, PNTS Trails Apprentice with the Bureau of Land Management, meeting some of the sled dogs participating in the Iditarod Great Sled Race, courtesy of Caitlan Dowling (upper right). Center photo of the North Cascades, taken on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail by Jeremy Vallianos, courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. Bottom left photo features trail reconstruction along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, courtesy of the NPS, and image at bottom right corner is of snow-covered sumac along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, courtesy of Gary Werner, PNTS.

Inside cover photos from left to right: engaging youth during the 2014 March to Kings Mountain, courtesy of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association; Hastings Cutoff Adventure Film, photo by Chad Douglas, courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management; and prairie restoration efforts along the the Ice Age NST, photo by Gary Werner, PNTS.





Reflections on the NHT Workshop Salt Lake City, UT

Article and photos by Chelsea Bodamer, PNTS

In October 2014, PNTS supporters, agency partners, and trail enthusiasts alike gathered in Salt Lake City for this year's National Historic Trails Workshop. Our partners at the Bureau of Land Management Utah helped to facilitate the workshop, which included themes focused on social media, trail preservation, and capacity building. Throughout the week, attendees enjoyed a vicarious experience of the trails that make their way across northern Utah—including the Mormon-Pioneer Trail, Oregon-California Trail, and the Pony Express Trail.

The workshop began with a bus trip through Echo Canyon—a portion of land frequently traversed by early settlers and significant to the Utah War. After a day of exploring the eastern part of the State, attendees traveled west to Pilot Valley and the Hastings Cutoff. This rugged piece of land is known for its nearly impassable terrain, which in 1846 proved to be detrimental to the infamous Donner-Reed Party.

In conjunction with the various field trips that took place, a wide variety of presentations were also given. Brad Peterson, Director for the Utah Outdoor Recreation office, spoke about the way Utah is leveraging tourism to promote the trails within the State. Deb Salt, with the Bureau of Land Management, and Stephan Nofield, with the National Park Service, were instrumental in providing agency updates as well as visions for the future.

Thanks to funding from our friends at the Federal Highway Administration, trail apprentices were another welcome addition to this year's workshop. This unique opportunity works to build capacity amongst various generations and pave the way for the future of the National Trail System.

In total, seven youth apprentices converged in Salt Lake, spanning from as far away as Alaska to south Texas. Two trail apprentices in particular, Michael Knight and Jared Lundquist—interns with the Bureau of Land Management Utah—wowed attendees with a film presentation of their Hastings Cutoff Trek (see page 10). The film followed their on-foot, modern-day journey along the Hastings Cutoff emphasizing the still prevalent challenges faced along the way.

Another memorable moment from this year's workshop included Utah's State BLM Director, Juan Palma, receiving the Special Recreation Award from Oregon-California Trail Association's Crossroads Chapter.

The workshop was full of rich culture and vivacious conversation, and is certainly one to be remembered. A very special thank you to all who attended and those who helped to make it possible.



Strengthening Transportation Career Pathways: Youth Workforce Development Partnerships

Submitted by Christopher Douwes, Community Planner, Transportation Alternatives Program/Recreational Trails Program, Federal Highway Administration



National Scenic and Historic Trail partners can use a provision of Federal surface transportation legislation to involve qualified youth service and conservation corps in trail-related surface transportation projects. Section 1524 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requires the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to encourage States and regional transportation planning agencies to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth service and conservation corps to perform appropriate transportation-related projects, including bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs, trail projects, and projects eligible under the Transportation Alternatives Program. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) posted Questions and Answers relating to this provision at www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qayscc.cfm.

Qualified youth service and conservation corps include any program established by a State or local government or nonprofit organization that are capable of providing meaningful, full-time, productive work for individuals between the ages of 16 and 25 in an urban or public works or transportation setting and gives participants a mix of work experience, job and life skills, education, training, and support services in addition to providing participants with the opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their communities and their country.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) held a Creating Access to Opportunity Webinar on December 9, 2014. The webinar provided an overview of transportation youth workforce opportunities and highlighted AmeriCorps and other Youth Service and Conservation Corps best practices. The webinar recording is at <https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/p8bx5vfytej/>.

The DOT/CNCS Fact Sheet Creating Access to Opportunity: Strengthening Transportation Career Pathways & Youth Workforce Development Partnerships Through Service provides information about expanding youth workforce development opportunities and strengthening transportation career pathways: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/cnsc_service.cfm.

The Corps Network published Conservation Corps and Transportation: Making the Connection in 2008, see www.corpsnetwork.org/resources/tcn-publications. The FHWA will seek more examples of projects involving youth corps, including examples from National Scenic and Historic Trails. As trail managers consider how to use youth service and conservation corps in their projects, they can document the benefits to the trails and to the youth involved. Your examples will help others protect our trails and train our youth in stewardship.

National Trails to feature on BLM's Instagram Account as part of 15th Anniversary of National Conservation Lands

To promote the 15th Anniversary of National Conservation Lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is leveraging creative approaches to social media. On the 15th of each month, the BLM is featuring National Conservation Lands across its national social-media accounts.



On February 15, 2015, the Department of the Interior handed over the keys to its popular Instagram account to the BLM. The [@USInterior](https://www.instagram.com/USInterior) Instagram "takeover" introduced the BLM and its unique, rugged landscapes to the 480,000 followers of the Interior, who can view new breathtaking photos of their public lands and one-of-a-kind wildlife shots each day. The social media collaboration drew several thousand new followers to the BLM's [@mypubliclands](https://www.instagram.com/mypubliclands) Instagram account.

In the lead-up to National Trails Day on June 6, the BLM is scheduled to showcase the National Trails System Trails in its social media accounts on May 15.

You can follow the 15th Anniversary of National Conservation Lands on social media all year with the hashtag [#conservationlands15](https://twitter.com/conservationlands15) and on the following social media accounts:

BLM National Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BLMNational>

My Public Lands Tumblr: <http://mypubliclands.tumblr.com>

My Public Lands Instagram: <http://instagram.com/mypubliclands>

My Public Lands Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mypubliclands/sets/>

My Public Lands Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/mypubliclands/conservationlands15/>



US Forest Service Hires New Florida National Scenic Trail Program Manager



Please join us in welcoming Shawn Thomas as the new Florida National Scenic Trail Program Manager! Shawn began his new role in November 2014, bringing a wealth of resource management and recreation experience, including time served with the US Air Force and Peace Corps. Volunteers from southern Florida may have had the pleasure of working with him in his former position as Fish, Wildlife, and Outdoor Recreation Program Manager at Avon Park Air Force Range.

Collaborative Landscape Planning and Preservation in the National Trails System -- An Example of Success Along the Ice Age NST

By Gary Werner, Executive Director
Partnership for the National Trails System



"Oh that glorious Wisconsin wilderness! Everything new and pure in the very prime when Nature's pulses were beating and mysteriously keeping time with your own! Young hearts, young leaves, flowers, animals, the winds and streams and the sparkling lake, all wildly, gladly rejoicing together!" —John Muir, My Boyhood and Youth

Photo courtesy of the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

In mid-December, the 113th Congress passed an omnibus appropriations bill to fund most of the Federal government for 2015. The act provides \$306 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for Federal agencies to purchase conservation land, including \$28 million for 18 projects along 12 National Scenic and Historic Trails. This funding, the greatest amount appropriated for national trails land acquisition in decades, will enable about half of the projects included in the 2015 National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (NTSCLP) proposal to be completed.

As the name suggests, the NTSCLP proposal was collaboratively prepared by the National Trails System program leaders from the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service working with the public/private partners for each of the national trails involved. Staff of the Partnership for the National Trails System coordinated the collection of the projects proposed by the individual trails and the recording of them in a standard format for agency leads to review and decide which ones to include in the final proposal submitted to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. While this collaborative approach for conservation and recreation land acquisition is new among Federal agencies – begun for Fiscal Year 2013 – in many ways it is just another focus of the interagency public/private collaboration that is the way the National Trails System operates.

Another National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal was prepared and submitted during the summer of 2014 for inclusion in the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget. This NTSCLP proposal includes 48 projects valued at \$66 million along 14 National Scenic and Historic Trails. The President included about \$28 million of National Trails System land acquisition projects in his FY 2016 LWCF Budget now being considered by Congress.



About the Natural Heritage Land Trust

The Natural Heritage Land Trust is a local, private, nonprofit organization in Dane County Wisconsin. Since 1983, it has helped landowners and communities meet their land conservation goals, including permanent protection of over 9,000 acres of natural areas, recreation lands, rivers and streams, wildlife habitat, and working farms. The Natural Heritage Land Trust works to help landowners establish conservation easements and provides assistance with acquisitions for public lands. In addition to its land conservation work, the organization offers field trips and work parties to give members an opportunity to meet others who are interested in land conservation and see first-hand the lands they helped permanently protect.

Learn about the Natural Heritage Land Trust at:
www.nhlt.org.

An Example of Successful Preservation Collaboration along the Ice Age NST

One of the trail land preservation projects accomplished during 2014 along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail has both great local meaning and national significance. It also is a classic example of the variety of heritage values and extent of collaboration occurring within the National Trails System.

In September 2014, the Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased 198 acres adjacent to the Fox River and Ennis Lake in Marquette County, Wisconsin. Besides helping to close a gap in the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, some of the acquired land also was part of the farmstead where John Muir spent his boyhood and youth. In his explorations of the "glorious Wisconsin wilderness" John Muir developed his life-long fascination with nature and his passion for urging its preservation and for us to live within it in a radically different manner than our exploitive culture encourages.

The permanent protection of this important piece of our Nation's natural, cultural, and historic heritage involved the cooperation and collaboration of many public agencies and private organizations, beginning with a family eager to preserve the important of the land they had cared for and loved for generations. An experienced Wisconsin regional land trust, the Natural Heritage Land Trust, handled the negotiations and prepared the grants for funding the purchase. According to the Natural Heritage Land Trust's 2014 Annual Report:

"an important part of John Muir's original boyhood home is now permanently protected as a complement to the John Muir Memorial County Park and State Natural Area.

Natural Heritage Land Trust will donate 120 acres of Bessie McGwin Eggleston's 198-acre farm to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be managed as part of the adjacent Fox River National Wildlife Refuge. A memorial plaque will be installed



on the foundation of the family’s barn commemorating the McGwin’s history on the property. The remaining 78 acres will be donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail will likely be extended north from the existing trail around Ennis Lake.

Many partner organizations and donors came together to make this project happen. Our thanks go to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Fox River Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council, The Conservation Fund, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, The Wisconsin Land Fund of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Ice Age Trail Alliance, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service Ice Age National Scenic Trail, and the many generous members of Natural Heritage Land Trust, Wisconsin Friends of John Muir, and John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club.”¹

Funds to purchase the land were raised by the local Friends of John Muir, the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, National Heritage Land Trust, and other regional land trusts. The Conservation Fund, a national land trust, provided an important “bridge loan” to keep the transaction on schedule to meet both the needs of the family selling the land and the funders financing the purchase.

It is not unusual for land acquired for national scenic and historic trails to protect wildlife habitat as well as provide places for human recreation while also preserving scenic and aesthetic values. It is also not unusual for land along national scenic trails to have historic significance. What is very special about this particular acquisition is the way it combines these heritage values while also preserving part of the gentle Wisconsin glaciated landscape that so inspired one of the seminal leaders of America’s environmental preservation movement – the “Father of the National Park System” – John Muir.

1) “Year in Protection 2013-2014” - Natural Heritage Land Trust
 Map of the Eggleston acquisition provided by the NPS.

Join us for the 15th Biennial National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference

Franklin, TN
 June 27 - July 1, 2015



The Partnership for the National Trails System, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association will host this year’s conference themed, “Find Your Trail: Planning Pathways into the 21st Century”.

Learn from educational sessions, mobile workshops, keynote speakers, and networking with other trail experts and volunteers.

This year’s conference tracks are as follows:

- Cultivating and Sustaining Community Support for Our Trails
- Preserving Special Places and Protecting Trail Resources and Settings
- Strengthening Our Trail Organizations and Our Trail Communities

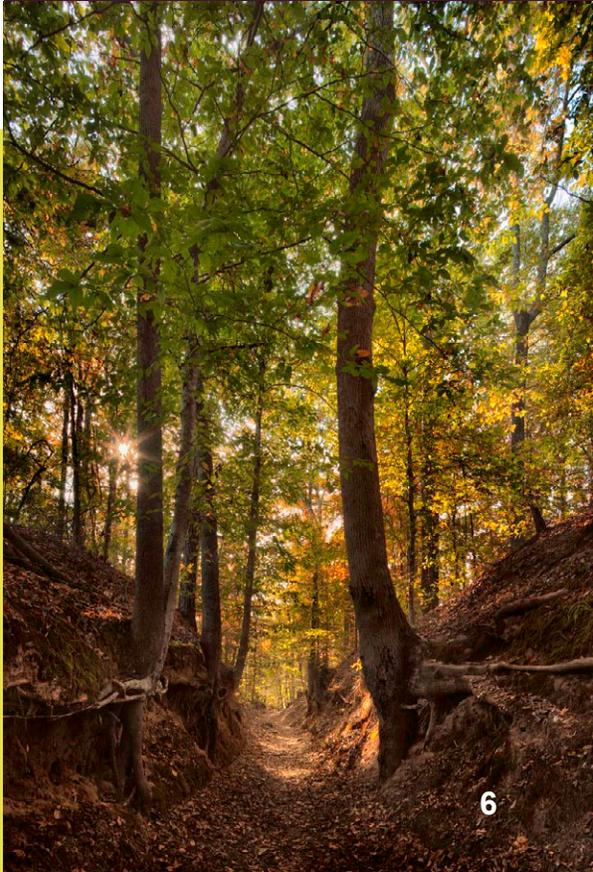
In addition, attendees will be given the opportunity to choose to attend one of three optional mobile workshops.

If you are interested in making a presentation, or would like to learn more about sponsorship for this year’s conference, please contact us at admin@pnts.org.

Watch for general registration opening later this spring at <http://pnts.org/new/2015conference/>

**Trails
 Apprentice Program
 Now Accepting
 Applicants!!!**

Know a young adult, age 18-24,
 involved with trails that might like to
 attend the Conference? Application
 Online at
[http://pnts.org/new/2015conference/
 youth-scholarships/](http://pnts.org/new/2015conference/youth-scholarships/)



Kansas City Showcases Multi-Trail Interpretive Collaboration



The Kansas City metropolitan area is unique in terms of National Historic Trails (NHTs). Three of these trails — the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe NHTs — share a common corridor for 40 miles. The corridor, called the Independence Route, is located on the east side of Kansas City and runs from the Wayne City Landing on the Missouri River in Sugar Creek, Missouri, to a spot where the Oregon-California Trail separates from the Santa Fe Trail just west of Gardner, Kansas.

These three NHTs also share a second route, called the Westport Route. This route runs through the heart of Kansas City from the foot of Main Street on the river, south to Westport at about 43rd Street, then uses two different routes to go southwest into Kansas, joining up in Overland Park, Kansas and ending up at the same location just west of Gardner as above.

A fourth trail, the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, traverses the entire Kansas City area along the Missouri River, touching the Independence Route at the Wayne City Landing site and the Westport Route in Kansas City at the foot of Main Street.

For nearly 15 years, the National Park Service (NPS) trail administrative office in Santa Fe, NM has focused on the Kansas City area because of this unique network of NHTs and the active interest of Public Works Departments and private sector entities. This busy partnership has established nearly 100 wayside exhibits, produced over 400 driving route and trail crossing signs, created new city parks, and developed interpretive exhibits such as life-size covered wagon silhouettes.

As a result, the NPS has selected Kansas City as an “incubator of ideas” for developing a National Historic Trail in a heavily urbanized setting. The “Administration and Development” Section 7 of the National Trails System Act provides the legal framework for such work to be pursued.

In Kansas City, there is a concerted effort at multiple levels of government, in cooperation with private nonprofit groups and other individuals, to build a recreational pedestrian trail in the 40-mile long Independence Route 3-Trail corridor. A future effort likely will be made along the Westport Route.

This “trail corridor” effort consists of multiple approaches including building a hiking/biking trail (including the implementation of pedestrian signage), installing local auto tour route signs, building interpretive exhibits, enhancing existing city parks and historic structures, and installing new trailheads for accessing the recreational trail.

Signage along the Independence Route of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs near the Wayne City Landing on the Missouri River in Sugar Creek, MO.

Members of the Trails Head Chapter of OCTA gather on the new Red Bridge across the Big Blue River in south Kansas City at the crossing of the Independence Route. The bridge features four wayside exhibits and portraits and biographies of famous pioneers. Minor Park, featuring several deep swales, a DAR monument, and a wayside exhibit, is adjacent to the bridge.

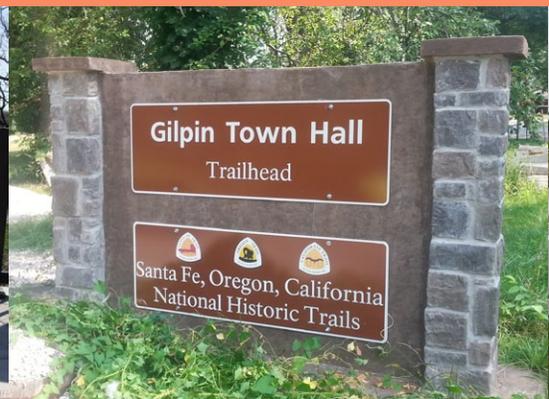
Below: This is about one-half mile south of the photo at far left along the Independence Route in Sugar Creek, MO on property owned by Matt Mallinson, the Mayor of Sugar Creek. The road is the actual trail.



The McCoy Park shelter is located along the Independence Route in Independence, MO. It was unveiled in August 2012 and features five wayside exhibits.

Already, the cities of Sugar Creek, Independence, and Raytown have installed both auto tour route and pedestrian signs to guide visitors through these cities in eastern Jackson County, Missouri. This signing program is a cooperative effort with the NPS which provides funding to the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) and the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) to pay for the fabrication of signs. In Sugar Creek, OCTA won a \$6,800 grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution to help pay for signposts.

Sugar Creek and Independence come together at Mill Creek Park, and the city of Independence has already completed a ¾ mile long, 10-foot-wide hiking trail that stretches southward past the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and winds up at the next trailhead in McCoy Park, which has five wayside exhibits. The Katy Trail, an extremely successful Rails-to-Trails conversion that stretches from the St. Louis suburbs into southwest Missouri, will eventually cross over the 3-Trails corridor in Raytown and offer bicyclists or hikers the ability to jump onto or off of the Katy with ease.





A huge sculpture at Pioneer Park in Shawnee, KS near the Westport Route of the SFNHT, ONHT & CNHT.

“The NPS has selected Kansas City as an ‘incubator of ideas’ on how to develop a National Historic Trail in a heavily-urbanized setting.”

Leveraging Community Improvement Districts

The Kansas City Area has been effective at leveraging community development efforts towards trail development. Lou Austin, a south Kansas City attorney who leads the city’s Three Trails Community Improvement District (CID), has been able to use the trail corridor as an economic incentive tool. His efforts have led to support for redevelopment of the former site of Bannister Mall, which will house a new office park for Cerner Corporation. Cerner Corporation is a multi-billion dollar Fortune 500 company headquartered in Kansas City that develops software for the healthcare industry. They recently broke ground on a new office park that will eventually accommodate 14,000 employees. The 3-Trails corridor crosses this property and Cerner plans to build this segment to connect into an existing recreational trail to the west.

That trail immediately crosses I-435 and Lou Austin has secured funding for a new \$1 million pedestrian bridge crossing I-435 that will open this spring. From there, a recreational trail allows hikers and bicyclists to travel an existing trail bridge over US Highway 71 and connect to another segment of recreational trail on the west side of the highway.

Expanding Partnerships

As on the Missouri side, much work is already complete in Kansas. Currently, parks—like Lone Elm Park in Olathe and the Gardner Junction Park west of Gardner, Kansas—are already complete. The city of Olathe has built a multi-million dollar education center at the Mahaffie House Stagecoach Stop, and the Mid-America Regional Council’s (MARC) master trails plan calls for the eventual completion of a pedestrian trail in the entire 40-mile corridor. In future years, OCTA plans to partner with SFTA and the NPS to continue the signing program.

With these authorities, and in cooperation with the eight municipalities in the Kansas City metropolitan area as well as numerous nonprofits and other individuals, Kansas City will continue taking advantage of its unique situation to lead the way in developing NHTs in an urban setting.

Article text and photos by Travis Boley and Ross Marshall, Oregon-California Trail Association.



Photos below: In March 2014, Kansas City’s National Historic Trail complex was put on display for a Kansas City Trails Conference of about 130 people from OCTA, the SFTA, and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) plus local political officials. The three trail organizations had their mid-year board meetings here. During the meetings, participants boarded two buses for a tour of the routes and sites in this article, including Gardner Junction (left) and Strang Park in Overland Kansas on the Westport Route.



Kahilina'i: Building Partnerships and Preserving Trails on the Kona Coast



An earthquake in 2006 caused severe damage to many archaeological sites along the Kona Coast. As a result, many ancient and historic trails, still used today, were badly damaged and became unsafe to travel.

Working together, local community groups, Hawaiian descendants of the Napu'u area, and the National Park Service (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail) devised a plan to repair the damage on two important North Kona trails. The National Park Service Cultural Resources Program provided funding in 2013 and 2014 to repair two large causeways of the Kiholo-Puakō Trail and six damaged stretches of the Pihohene-Kapalaoa Trail.

These trails have been travelled by the 'ohana (families) of Napu'u (Pu'uwa'awa'a and Pu'u'anahulu ahupua'a, or mountain to sea land divisions) for centuries. The Kiholo-Puakō Trail, now on the National Register of Historic Places, dates to the mid-1800s. Built by the Kingdom of Hawai'i to accommodate travel by horses, this alanui aupuni (government road) was the modern highway of its day. Nearby, the Pihohene-Kapalaoa Trail was an ancient Hawaiian foot trail that was later modified for travel by horse or donkey. This trail stretched between the uplands of Pu'u'anahulu and the coast, allowing families to travel back and forth through the rough 'a'a lava flow. Both of these trails are very important to the descendant Hawaiian families of the area, and represent their strong connection to these lands.

In a partnership effort by the National Park Service, Hui Aloha Kiholo (a Native Hawaiian Organization), Hawai'i Division of State Parks, Nā Ala Hele State Trails and Access Program, the 'ohana of Napu'u and community volunteers these ancient and historic trails have been repaired so cultural practitioners and recreational hikers can travel safely.

The preservation team for these projects included an interdisciplinary crew of NPS archaeologists and Hawaiian stonemasons. The methodology for the projects was based on the design principles of traditional Hawaiian stone masonry (hāpai pōhaku), which is broadly rooted in dry-set (without mortar) stone construction techniques. The crew performed detailed pre-stabilization documentation including photo documentation, LIDAR mapping, and tape and compass mapping, and a detailed evaluation of each damaged area to determine the specific level and type of intervention needed. The goal of these efforts was to preserve the distinctive materials and features of the trail and to minimize disturbance of undamaged areas. The crew also hosted a variety of public workshops focused on traditional skills of dry-set stonemasonry and cutting edge technologies used to document the process, including LIDAR mapping.

These projects have helped to continue the legacy of caring for trails that has been practiced by generations of Native Hawaiian families along the Kona coast. The successes of these projects have not only resulted in preserving these important historic and ancient resources, they have built invaluable partnerships in historic preservation.

Submitted by Amanda Johnson Campbell, NPS.

Top three photos depict trail repair efforts; bottom photo shows the Kiholo-Puakō trail as it appeared in the 1880s. Photos courtesy of the NPS.

Rita Hennessey Selected As National Trails System Program Manager

Rita Hennessey, longtime trails administrator and National Park Service veteran, is the new program manager for the Service's National Trails System.

"We are very happy to have Rita on board to lead National Park Service efforts in the National Trails System," said Bob Ratcliffe, chief of the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Division. "Rita knows this work well, having spent the past 18 years on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, where she served in a number of positions, lastly as the assistant superintendent."

The National Park Service has responsibility for the majority of the national historic, scenic, and recreation trails in the U.S. In addition to the trails program, Hennessey will have the Connect Trails to Parks project in her portfolio.

Hennessey's signature project at the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, or the AT, as it is called, was the cooperative management system. Within this system, she engaged with hundreds of partners and thousands of volunteers. Most recently, she led development of the trail's foundation document and business plan.

"I thrive in cooperative management and partnerships which are the body and soul of the AT and all national trails," Hennessey said.

Hennessey holds an undergraduate degree in recreation resource management from the University of Montana and a master's degree in community change and civic leadership from Antioch McGregor.

She has 26 years with the National Park Service. In addition to her service on the Appalachian Trail, she has been stationed at Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks and at Rock Creek Park and the National Mall, both in Washington. She begins her assignment at the national trails office in Washington this month. Submitted by Stephan Nofield; Originally published in the NPS Morning Report on March 6, 2015.



Full of energy and youthful enthusiasm, three interns set out on a grueling journey, following a historic trail trace across Utah's Great Salt Desert.



“By doing this we were able to engage a younger audience, generating renewed interest in National Historic Trails. Our live tweeting garnered national attention, resulting in interviews with the Associated Press—which spread our message far and wide. These are powerful stories and it’s important that young people hear them from their peers!”

- BLM Spokesperson Chad Douglas

Hastings Cutoff Adventure Film Captures Treacherous Beauty and Challenge of Famous Trail Segment



This past summer, in the heat of July, two Bureau of Land Management (BLM) interns, Hannah Cowan and Jared Lundquist, joined a skeleton film crew and me on a mission to retrace 35 miles of the fateful steps of the Donner-Reed Party across Utah's west desert. Bold as it was hiking this 90-mile waterless section of the California Trail, known as Hastings Cutoff, our goal was to bring the history of the trail to life through film and live social media.

Our preparatory research found that the party's struggle resulted in the loss of several wagons, half their livestock, and precious time. Wrongfully sold as a shortcut to California by entrepreneur Lansford W. Hastings, Utah's harsh desert landscape devastated the group, taking twice as long to traverse as they had anticipated.

Determined to avoid the same peril, we gathered the necessary provisions, rallied our BLM support team, and set out on our three-day adventure. Documenting each step of the journey, we kicked things off at the Donner-Reed museum in Grantsville, Utah, where we interviewed trail experts representing the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Sons of Utah Pioneers. A few even joined us at Redlam Springs, sharing their insight on emigrant efforts to supply themselves for waterless travel. Considered the last available water source on Hastings Cutoff, we began to grasp just how unprepared these people were. From there, we hiked to our first campsite near Hastings Pass in the Cedar Mountain Wilderness.

On day two, while descending from the pass, we caught our first glimpse of Pilot Peak—the distant landmark that guided those who journeyed long ago. There we would find Donner Spring, the next available water source. For this reason, Pilot Peak represented life.

By noon we had arrived at the mud flats, a thin crusty layer of salt with bottomless mud underneath. It was a sticky trap for wealthy pioneers like those of the Donner-Reed Party. Several of their heavy wagons sunk to the hubs and were inevitably abandoned in favor of saving livestock and for fear of dehydration if further delayed. While hiking, we reflected the hardships these novice settlers faced. I felt anger and frustration build up. I couldn't believe Hastings would lead these people into this death trap.

Cooling off at Floating Island, we prepared an old fashioned dinner of stew and bread before continuing our journey. We still had several miles before arriving at camp and nightfall only made the trek more comfortable. We were reliving history, and though our bodies were exhausted, our minds were elated by the intimate experience.



After two days and two nights of travel across the Utah desert, Hannah, Jared, and I reached Donner Pass, and like the Donner Party, realized we had 10 more miles of mud flat to traverse. Here a trail marker inscriptions reads: “Got to the rock of misery, 65 miles, our water all gone and our horses nearly famished for water. Teams giving out, men lying on the side of the road, speechless for the want for water.” -Henry S. Bloom, August 2, 1850”

Early the next morning we walked the last ten miles of our journey across Pilot Valley, arriving at Donner Spring. Reaching the end of our journey, intern Hannah Cowan said, “I cannot fathom traveling the entirety of this ninety-mile waterless stretch with my family and worldly possessions. Sun baked, dehydrated, sick of boredom, losing wagons and livestock—all the time following what was supposed to be the short-cut!” Jared Lundquist had a similar experience stating that although the trip was physically hard, mentally, it was much more difficult. “There’s no water, no vegetation, nothing to look at, and the ground is kind of weird, like being on the moon. You can see for miles and miles without any obstructions.”

The film crew put together a video that debuted in October at the National Historic Trails Workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is available on the BLM-Utah website and on YouTube by searching “Hastings Cutoff – Retracing the Footsteps of the Donner-Reed Party”.

By Michael Knight, BLM National Historic Trails Intern. Photos by Chad Douglas, BLM.

Realizing the full extent of the hardships once face by emigrant parties in the 1840s, interns (left to right) Hannah Cowan, Michael Knight, and Jared Lundquist take a moment to visualize a scene of dismay and desperation.



Remarking the Old Spanish Trail Through Southern Nevada

By Dr. Elizabeth Warren, NV Director, OSTA; Nicole Marie Dominguez, President, NV Chapter of OSTA, and Ashley J. Hall, President, OSTA

In 2010, members of the Nevada Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), including the late OSTA President and NV Chapter founder Hal Steiner, determined to 'remark' the Old Spanish Trail (1829-1848) through Southern Nevada as part of the State's 150th Birthday in 2014. In the 50 years since the Nevada Centennial Markers were initially erected, many of the 31 original markers have been damaged, destroyed, or stolen. The original Nevada Centennial Markers were 7-foot high reinforced concrete rectangular obelisks that measure 11 inches on each side at the base, tapering to 6 inches on each side at the top. Each obelisk weighed 225 lbs, with "Old Spanish Trail 1829 - 1848" stamped into two sides of the marker. Every method and means was used to locate the original marker locations, including air, ground, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) maps. Additionally, the Special Collections Library at the University of Las Vegas contains much of the original history on the marking of the Trail through Southern Nevada as part of Nevada's 100th birthday in 1964.

The OSTA-Nevada Chapter is working with youth groups, especially Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Future Farmers of America (FFA), community and historic interests, western riding groups, and family of OSTA members to relocate and replace markers. Two Eagle Scout projects helped complete GPS surveys and associated assessment of the markers, and that information was submitted to the BLM for review and approvals of marker sites located on BLM lands. Additional efforts were needed with the Nevada Department of Transportation and private landowners to coordinate remarking the trail when replacing/relocating current centennial markers on those lands. During the assessment process, 25 markers were identified as needing replacement. By the end of 2014, the Nevada Chapter had replaced most of the needed markers, with a few on BLM lands to be replaced in early 2015.

The first Eagle Scout Project was done by Joshua Allen of Boy Scout Troop 5 in Las Vegas in 2012. Josh and his committee conducted the initial GPS survey of each marker. Another Boy Scout, Thad Erickson of Boy Scout Troop 461 of Las Vegas, conducted his Eagle Scout project by planning, fabricating, and erecting the replacement marker at the Old Las Vegas Mormon State Historic Park located in downtown Las Vegas. Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, accompanied by some 300 sesquicentennial committee members and community leaders assisted Erickson with unveiling the initial replacement marker at the Old Las Vegas Fort on October 30, 2013 as Nevada's Sesquicentennial kick-off for its 150th Birthday Celebration. Several other Eagle Scout Projects are in progress.

In addition to support from the Scouting community, the Blue Diamond and Goodsprings history clubs, the Back Country Riders Association, Future Farmers of America, along with other outdoor groups, have provided excellent support to the OSTA Nevada Chapter in the remarking of the trail. Others to be recognized for their efforts include Nevada's local, State, and Federal officials who have all been supportive of our efforts as we strive to protect, preserve and interpret the OST. Additional recognition goes to Individuals like the late Hal Steiner who published a historical treatise: "The Old Spanish Trail across the Mojave Desert," and Liz Warren, for her considerable work on identifying and interpreting the trail.

About the Old Spanish NHT

Famed western historians Dr. Leroy R. & Ann W. Hafen published the first major book on the OST in modern times, "Old Spanish Trail, Santa Fe to Los Angeles", in 1954. The book states the obvious to those of us who have traveled the OST between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, "The Old Spanish Trail was the longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America."



The Old Spanish Trail was a significant commerce route between the two Mexican colonial outposts of Santa Fe located in New Mexico and the San Gabriel Mission/Los Angeles Plaza in Southern California. Las Vegas owes its place on western maps to Captain John C. Fremont who used the Trail as recorded in his 1844 journal. The first trading caravan to travel between Santa Fe and Southern California included a Santa Fe Trader named Antonio Armijo who led his group of 30 Santa Fe traders and trail hands to Southern California in 1829 loaded with woolen goods from Santa Fe and surrounding pueblos.



Photo above depicts the Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval at the unveiling ceremony for a replacement marker at Old Las Vegas Fort.



Photo at far left: Derek Cope, Eagle Scout candidate, and project committee, including OSTA president Ashley Hall (far right), at the location of John C. Fremont's Camp in 1844 at the crossing of the Muddy River and the California Wash along the OST near Glendale, NV.

Sketch of Marker #17 by Makamae Elvenia, Boy Scout Troop #5 Las Vegas, NV. The marker reads: "Old Spanish Trail, 1829 to 1848".

Photos courtesy of OSTA.

Santa Fe Trail Youth Expo Brings History to Life for Kansas Kids

The Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) hosted its first Santa Fe Trail Youth Expo on October 4th, 2014 in McPherson, Kansas. 70 kids and 23 adults registered for this day of fun exploring the Trail. The day began with the first session, *Santa Fe Trail 101*, to provide the kids with some background. The morning was divided into three sessions. The Fort Larned Traveling Trunk presentation told the story of “A Long Way to Santa Fe,” a story designed about a kid traveling on the Trail. Prairie Larkspur, a musical group got the kids moving and dancing in their session on music and games of the 1800s. The third session introduced the participants to the military life of the cavalry and infantry soldiers. Following lunch, four sessions were held in the afternoon, including Cooking on the Trail using a Dutch oven, trading on the trail, and common items that were traded. The participants also learned about the Santa Fe Trail Geocaching adventure. Representatives from the Arapahoe Nation presented historic aspects of Arapahoe life, including an authentic teepee and artifacts. Some participants stayed on for the optional geocaching exercise. Each participant received a picture of himself or herself to take home. They also received t-shirts and information about the Wagon Master Program and additional handouts about the Santa Fe Trail as well as membership information.



At the end of the day, participants filled out an evaluation of the event. The favorite activities for the kids were the military and the Native American sessions. Several participants indicated that they would like to see the real Santa Fe Trail as well as the animals that were used. The McPherson County 4H Extension Agent was a key to the success of this event. The 4-H Extension Agent assisted in organizing the kids and volunteers and overseeing the lunch activities as well as taking registration and preparing bags for the kids to take home. In addition, this event would not have been possible without the funding provided by the National Park Service and the volunteers who made the event a great success!

Article and photos by Linda Colle, SFTA.

Endowment from Sales of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Silver Dollars Supports Trail Projects Across the Country

During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, the U.S. Mint issued and sold Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Silver Dollars. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the coins were provided to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) to create an Endowment named “The Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project”. This fund has been set up for the purpose of preservation, protection, and interpretation of the natural, historic, educational, and cultural resources of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Every year the LCTHF grants out approximately \$50,000 to its Chapters and other nonprofit organizations. Since 2011 over \$211,000 has been granted to 56 projects in 20 States. For 2015, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation awarded a total of \$56,345 to fourteen recipients. The largest amount received by an entity was \$7,500. Projects include interpretive signage, speakers, educational events, marketing materials, new public access to the trail, trail protection, and collaborative planning.

Projects receiving grants in 2015:

- Bitter Root Cultural Historic Trust: Scenic-Historic Highway Management Plan and Designation and Interpretive Vision (MT)
- Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation: Interpretive Signage in Beaver and Allegheny Counties (PA)
- Confluence Project: Refurbishment of Art Installations, Cape Disappointment State Park (WA)
- Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument: Enhancing Visitor’s Experiences (MT)
- Friends of the Ridgefield Refuge: Lifeways, Landscapes, and Wildlife Interpretive Program (WA)
- Jefferson River Canoe Trail Chapter (LCTHF): New Campsite, Jefferson Canoe Trail (MT)
- Montana Wilderness Association for Southeastern MT: Geo-tourism project along Lewis and Clark Historic Trail (MT)
- Oregon Chapter (LCTHF): Point William Campsite Interpretation on the Astoria River Walk (OR)
- Our Montana: Back to the Future with Lewis and Clark: Technology Then and Now! (MT)
- Powder River County High School: Bringing Lewis and Clark to Powder River Students (MT)
- Sergeant Floyd Honor Guard: New Rifles and Tents for Discovery Corp Reenactors (IA)
- Travelers Rest Preservation and Heritage Association: Bitter Root Culture Camp 2015 (MT)
- Washington Chapter (LCTHF): “Go Adventuring” in Pacific Northwest L&C Marketing Project (WA)
- Yellowstone County Museum: Clark Canoe Camp Exhibit (MT)

Visit www.lewisandclark.org for more information about the Trail Stewardship Grant program and the LCTHF.

Submitted by Jane Henley, LCTHF Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee, and Margaret Gorski, President, LCTHF.

10th Anniversary of Dedication of El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association and the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service celebrated the 10th anniversary of the designation of El Camino Real as a National Historic Trail in San Antonio, Texas from October 16th – 18th. Sponsors for the event included the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, Los Bexareños, and the Hispanic Heritage Center of Texas.

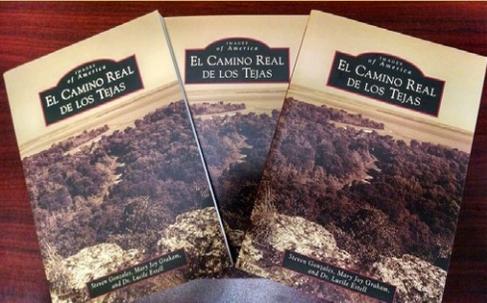


The event included a sign unveiling, the release of the official map and guide for the trail by the NPS, a photographic exhibit of the trail, booths, presentations, and a tour of the trail through the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

The celebration kicked off on October 16th with the unveiling of the first-ever official NPS pedestrian signage in San Antonio. The ceremony took place at the Medina River Greenway and was attended by former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff, both of whom spoke of their support for the development of the trail. The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park placed site identification signs at all mission sites identifying them as part of El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT. Speakers at Friday's event presented on a wide range of topics about the Camino Real including presentations about Native Americans on the Camino Real, El Rancho de las Cabras, and Los Adaes as the first capital of Texas.

The event also featured the release of a new book about the Camino developed by association representatives Steven Gonzales, Mary Joy Graham, and Dr. Lucile Estell. The book, titled "El Camino Real de los Tejas" was released by Arcadia Publishing. It is the first non-technical publication that covers the entirety of the trail. It was arranged in the same pattern as the association's regions with the addition of information about the trail in Guerrero, Coahuila, and introductory and concluding chapters. The work is a pictorial history of the trail that is composed of historic and contemporary photos, and it allows the reader to travel from one end of the trail to the other while visiting trail sites along the way.

Submitted by Steve Gonzales, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association.

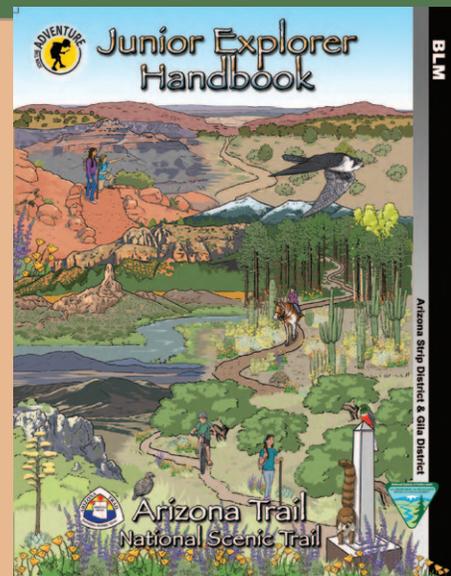


Arizona Trail Association and BLM Release Junior Explorer Handbook

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA), in cooperation with the Arizona State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is proud to announce the release of the *Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbook*. This educational publication is intended for youth ages 12-16, but kids and adults of all ages will find much to learn and enjoy within its 20 colorful pages.

The Handbook is a virtual adventure from border to border, and each section highlights different geographical areas, including the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands, Sky Islands, Gila River, Mogollon Rim, San Francisco Peaks, Grand Canyon, and Arizona Strip. These sections are richly illustrated with the unique plants and animals that are found nearby, and activities that support Arizona science standards at the 6th – 8th grade levels. Just a few of the activities participants are encouraged to do include creating your own watershed (teaching the importance of water awareness and conservation); making a biotic community chart (demonstrating the variety of life at elevations throughout the state); tracking felines such as mountain lions, bobcats, ocelots, and jaguars (encouraging awareness of subtle signs along the trail); cream-filled cookie plate tectonics (explaining how the earth's forces shape the land); drawing a sound map (encouraging seldom-used senses to experience the environment); and many more.

The Handbook, which is also available in an interactive format on the ATA webpage, encourages critical thinking about natural processes, environmental issues, and how to affect positive change. Participants who complete the questions and activities receive a Junior Explorer patch and a full-color map of the Arizona NST. The first printing of Junior Explorer Handbooks is estimated at 32,000, thanks to support from the BLM and supplemental funding from the US Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS). Handbooks are available free of charge and will be distributed at numerous outlets statewide, including BLM field offices, USFS offices, NPS visitor centers, select Arizona State Park locations, Western National Parks Association gift shops, the Arizona Trail Association office, the Summit Hut, and special events throughout the year.



BIOTIC COMMUNITIES along the Arizona Trail

From the Sonoran Desert to the San Francisco Peaks, you will encounter nearly all of Arizona's biotic communities on the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

Directions
Make a biotic community chart by arranging the different zones based on elevation and precipitation. As you travel higher in elevation, the temperature decreases and the precipitation increases. Draw pictures or write the names of the different plants and animals found within each zone. Add colors and animals you think might also be found within each biotic community.

Average yearly Precipitation

25-30 inches
22 inches
20 inches
18 inches
12 inches or more
12 inches or less

SHARE THE TRAIL with other trail users!

The Arizona National Scenic Trail is special because it encourages all forms of non-motorized outdoor recreation, including hiking, cycling, horseback riding, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing during the winter months. In order for all the different trail users to get along in a safe manner, it is important to share the trail.

Trail Courtesy

- 1. Go Right
- 2. Give Way
- 3. Stop
- 4. Yield
- 5. Stop
- 6. Give Way
- 7. Stop
- 8. Yield
- 9. Stop
- 10. Give Way
- 11. Stop
- 12. Yield
- 13. Stop
- 14. Give Way
- 15. Stop
- 16. Yield
- 17. Stop
- 18. Give Way
- 19. Stop
- 20. Yield

Mountain Bikers
Since they move faster, mountain bikers should always give the right-of-way to other trail users. When you're riding on the Arizona Trail and you encounter a hiker or equestrian on the trail, it's best to stop, step off the trail into your brush, and let them pass by. If you can't step off, then call out to them as soon as they see you, and encourage them to do the same. This is courteous. If you're on a trail that is narrow, it's best to talk to hikers and their riders as they pass to reassure the horse that you are human.

Hikers
It's advised and safer for hikers, runners and backpackers to stop off the trail and give equestrians and mountain bikers the right-of-way when you encounter another trail user coming in the opposite direction. If you're on a trail that is narrow, it's best to talk to hikers and their riders as they pass to reassure the horse that you are human.

Equestrians
People on horses, mules, and donkeys at other animals have the right-of-way. This means that when you encounter an equestrian from behind, you must stop. If you are coming in the opposite direction, it's best to talk to hikers and their riders as they pass to reassure the horse that you are human. If you're on a trail that is narrow, it's best to talk to hikers and their riders as they pass to reassure the horse that you are human.

Junior Explorer Question
The Arizona Trail needs people to help keep it maintained so other hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians can enjoy the trail. What can you do to help?

New England National Scenic Trail Dedicates New Waterfront Gateway and Boardwalk

By Clare Cain, Stewardship Director,
Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Adapted with permission from the original article appearing in Connecticut Woodlands, Fall 2014, Volume 79, Number 3.



NET Chittenden Park kiosk
photo by Teresa Gallagher.

Sunday, June 8, 2014. The sun was bright, a nice breeze blew, and at least 300 trail supporters and friends of the New England Trail joined Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) to celebrate and dedicate the trail's southern gateway on Long Island Sound. There was music and trail tattoo artists, stilts and jugglers, barbeque, beautiful weather, and the new boardwalk!

In conjunction with the Town of Guilford's 375th anniversary celebrations, droves went down to the shoreline for trail dedication festivities. The new 107-foot boardwalk and overlook platform extends from Chittenden Park out onto sand dunes. At 5:46 p.m., as cheers and celebration filled the air, trail partners and event attendees watched the official ribbon cutting, inaugurating the southern end of one of the nation's newest national scenic trails.

The boardwalk is unlike any other structure on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System in Connecticut. It is an ambitious piece of construction in a sensitive and shifting shoreline environment. Designed by Guilford architect William Thompson, the boardwalk utilizes a specialized footing design known as the Diamond Pier. Unique in the trail world and designed to withstand severe weather, the footings are the key to the boardwalk's sustainability. The Diamond Pier design is ingenious in its simplicity. A concrete head sits on the ground surface, and steel bearing pins are driven through the head, into the ground. The pins reach deep into the ground and don't require digging holes or pouring concrete (imperative considerations when building so close to the Sound). The decking and benches are made of Ipe wood, an incredibly strong wood that is particularly resilient to rot and excessive salinity.

Boardwalk photo by Marty Gosselin. Photos courtesy of the CFPA.

We at CFPA feel quite proud of our southern gateway project. It is a testament to what can be accomplished through partnership and commitment to providing an exemplary recreational experience. The boardwalk marks the southern end of Connecticut's longest continuous trail, which traverses from sea to ridgetop, beckoning hardy hiker and casual explorer alike to explore. If you have yet to visit the southern stretch of the NET through historic downtown Guilford and the new boardwalk at Chittenden Park, you certainly should. It is the hottest new destination on the map!

We are especially grateful to the Guilford business community, all of our in-kind contributors, the volunteers and partners, and the variety of donors who made this project such a success—we couldn't have done it without them.



September 2015 Conference to Celebrate Three Historic Trails Leading to Santa Fe

All Trails Lead to Santa Fe, a conference taking place September 17–20, 2015, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will explore the history of the three trails that intersected in Santa Fe to create the foundations of today's Southwest. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the only north-south route between New Mexico and Mexico from 1598 through the end of the nineteenth century. In 1821 the Camino Real was joined by the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri, connecting the eastern United States with the Southwest and Mexico. In 1829, the Old Spanish Trail opened an overland trade route to Los Angeles from Santa Fe, extending the network of trails to the Pacific.

All Trails Lead to Santa Fe, based at the Convention Center in the 400-year-old capital, will include presentations by historians Rick Hendricks and Marc Simmons, panel discussions, curated bus tours of trail sites and a variety of evening entertainment. Scholars, historians, trail enthusiasts, and the general public are invited to attend. Complete information is available at www.3TrailsConferenceSantaFe.org.

The conference is being organized by the stewardship groups for the three trails, including El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA), the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), and the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA).

All Trails Lead to Santa Fe
A joint conference of three historic trail associations

September 17–20, 2015
Thursday - Sunday at the Convention Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- ◆ Speakers, including Marc Simmons and Rick Hendricks
- ◆ Field Trips
- ◆ Children's Musical Performance

Santa Fe was the hub of an overland continental trade and communications network of thousands of miles in the 1800s, linking markets and people from Mexico City to the south, the California coast to the west, and east to Missouri and the rest of the United States, via three trails now designated as National Historic Trails. Learn more at this conference.

www.3TrailsConferenceSantaFe.org



Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
 222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13
 Madison, WI 53703

www.pnts.org/

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Trails Events Calendar

April 9-12, 2015	Annual Conference of the Florida Trail Association	Florida Trail Association	Fruitland Park, FL	www.floridatrail.org
April 12-16, 2015	National Outdoor Recreation Conference	Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals	Annapolis, MD	http://www.recpro.org/2015-conference
April 23-26, 2015	Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Wisconsin Dells, WI	www.iceagetrail.org
May 17-20, 2015	American Trails International Trails Symposium	American Trails	Portland, OR	www.americantrails.org
June 6, 2015	National Trails Day®	American Hiking Society	Nationwide	www.nationaltrailsday.org
June 27-July 1, 2015	National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference	Partnership for the National Trails System	Franklin, TN	www.pnts.org
July 17-24, 2015	Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Winchester, VA	www.appalachiantrail.org
August 1-5, 2015	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Kansas City, MO	www.lewisandclark.org
September 10-14, 2015	North Country Trail Association Rendezvous	North Country Trail Association	Cortland, NY	www.northcountrytrail.org
September 17-20, 2015	Three Trails Conference (see inside, page 14)	SFTA, El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT Assoc., OSTA	Santa Fe, NM	www.3trailsconference-santafe.org
September 20-22, 2015	Pennsylvania Trails and Greenways Summit	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Warren, PA	www.dcnr.pa.state.us/