

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



Pathways

Across America

WINTER 2018-19



TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

2018 achievements toward the Decade Goals by trail partners

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

RESOURCE PROTECTION AND TRAIL COMPLETION

CAPACITY BUILDING

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 quarterly by the **Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)** under cooperative agreements with five Federal agencies.



Department of Agriculture (USDA):
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

Department of the Interior (DOI):
National Park Service (NPS)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Department of Transportation (DOT):
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)



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ABOUT US

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that connects member nonprofit trail organizations and Federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 national scenic and historic trails within the National Trails System.

STAFF

Executive Director: Gary Werner	Outreach and Youth Programs Coordinator: Chelsea Bodamer
Communications Coordinator and Pathways Editor: Samantha Haas	National Trails System 50th Anniversary Communications Coordinator: Leigh Schmidt
Consultants: Don Owen and Liz Wessel	

EDITORIAL BOARD

Deborah Salt • Bureau of Land Management
Christopher Douwes • Federal Highway Administration
Rita Hennessy • National Park Service
Nathan Caldwell • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jaime Schmidt • U.S. Forest Service

CONTACT

Partnership for the National Trails System
304 E. Wilson St. Lower Level • Madison, WI 53703
608.249.7870 • www.pnts.org • admin@pnts.org



National Trails System

Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968. Today, the National Trails System is composed of 11 National Scenic Trails (NSTs), 19 National Historic Trails (NHTs), almost 1,300 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) including 21 National Water Trails, and more than 2,000 Rail Trails. These trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities, promote resource preservation and public access, and encourage the appreciation of the great outdoors and America's history and cultural diversity.

PATHWAYS NATIONWIDE FOR DISCOVERY, LEARNING, AND UNDERSTANDING

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

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

Facilitating public-private partnerships for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

- Authorized by Congress
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Partnership for the National Trails System**
- Total 55,000 miles through 49 States and the District of Columbia in wild, rural, suburban, and urban areas, connecting with every distinct ecological area or biome in the country
- Connect and travel through 70 wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, 100 BLM field office areas, over 120 wilderness areas, numerous State and local parks, trails, and other protected areas, and 100 major urban areas
- Over 1 million hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain annually

RECREATION TRAILS

- Designated by Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
 - Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **American Trails**
 - Total 26,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- www.americantrails.org

RAIL TRAILS

- Part of 1983 amendment to National Trails System Act
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**
- Total 22,000 miles through 50 States and the District of Columbia, and 8,000 miles in progress

www.railstotrails.org

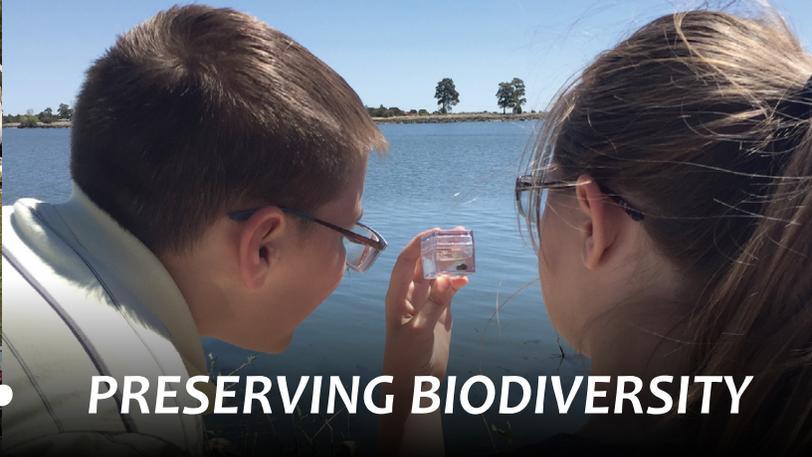


Click the National Trails System tab to view a map and learn about our partners:

www.pnts.org



KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE



PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

11 NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

The National Scenic Trails (NSTs) represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the country is traversed by a NST, from deserts, temperate rainforests and deciduous forests, tundra, mountains, prairies, wetlands, and rivers. NSTs 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

19 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

The National Historic Trails (NHTs) 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 NSTs.

- 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

Cover Photographs

FRONT

Gemma Amorelli, intern with the Chugach National Forest, Alaska Region, participates in the Upper Winner Creek trail building day along the Iditarod National Historic Trail on July 14, 2018. Photo Credit: Jacob Torres

INSIDE

Left: CDT Trail Adopter Trainings. Photo Credit: Continental Divide Trail Coalition. Center: Volunteers present "In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark: New Zooarchaeological Excavations of Big Bone Lick, KY. Photo Credit: Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

Right: Students take a biologic inventory and examine aquatic macroinvertebrates at Ashurst Lake near the Arizona NST with the Seeds of Stewardship Program. Photo Credit: Arizona Trail Association

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WINTER 2018-19



EDITOR'S NOTE: This issue of *Pathways* provides a glimpse of the many great strides made by nonprofit trail partner organizations and Federal agency partners to support the National Trails System. The achievements represented in these pages, however, are by no means reflective of all that is taking place on the national scenic and historic trails; only the "highlights" submitted by the primary partner(s) of each trail. This report does not include many of the great achievements of the State, regional, and local public agencies, or many other private organizations that support the trails in a multitude of ways. Due to the partial government shutdown, which began December 22, 2018, several of our Federal agency partners* were unable to submit their highlights or provide input to the nonprofit trail partner organizations by this publication deadline.

50th Anniversary

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- National Trails and Wild and Scenic Rivers are major components of the 'geography of hope'

- 10 • Trail and river communities hold co-located events in Pacific Northwest to mark 50 years

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* More highlights from other Federal agency partners will be available on our website upon their submittal.

20 EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Reflections on the rivers and trails 50th

Linear systems are major components of the 'geography of hope'

We began 2018, the 50th anniversary year of the National Trails System and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, with an inspiring Congressional Reception during Hike the Hill in February. The reception, held in the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building, was attended by more than 200 organizational and Federal agency leaders, members of Congress, and their staffs. We concluded a year of numerous special events and activities throughout the country with a National Trails System 50th Anniversary Training Conference co-located with the River Management Society's Wild and Scenic Rivers Symposium in Vancouver, WA in late October. More than 400 rivers and trails activists attended the two events, including 33 youthful Trail Apprentices. It was quite fitting to celebrate these two national linear resource systems together, just as it was appropriate for Congress to authorize them in the same year and for President Lyndon Johnson to sign the laws establishing them at the same time on October 2, 1968.

The concept, scope, and reach of each of these linear systems is vast, challenging, and inspiring. The National Trails System is predicated on the radical notion that citizens should be trusted and empowered to be active stewards of major and extensive recreational, educational, and preservation resources—fundamental components of our nation's natural and cultural heritage.

Collaboration imbues the work we do within the National Trails System. In that spirit, our Federal agency partners and leaders of the Partnership for the National Trails System, American Trails, American Hiking Society, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy worked all year to disseminate information to the public about the trails, organize and guide special events, and engage the outdoor recreation industry to better support these resources. We also collaborated with the four national organizations, River Management Society, American Rivers, the River Network, and American Whitewater, that support the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

These two extensive linear systems—rivers and trails—are quintessentially both destinations and the places, the routes for undertaking journeys. Besides preserving



We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.

— Wallace Stegner

Written in his 1960 letter to the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission



critical natural, cultural, scenic, and historic resources, our national rivers and trails also preserve, refresh, and inspire our human spirit. There are hundreds of favorite, special places—destinations—along them. At the same time, both national trails and rivers inspire dreams of journeys, whether brief—a day or less—or lengthy—spanning months or even years. They provide the opportunity, and the locale to live those dreams. The act of going, of traveling through extensive landscapes, is just as valuable and beneficial as arriving at the desired destination.

In these ways our national trails and rivers are major components of what Wallace Stegner called “the geography of hope.” Stegner first used this term in a December 1960 Wilderness Letter to the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission about the report it was preparing to send to Congress (the full letter can be found at www.wilderness.org). He was referring to the value of wilderness and the necessity to preserve it in Alaska and elsewhere in the United States. To Stegner, one of the values of wilderness resided in its mere existence to buoy the spirits of people who would never gaze upon it, let alone travel through it.

For many, our rivers and trails are what tie them—us—to our Mother Earth and inspire our nurturing instincts of stewardship for our Earth and for one another. Whether building new trail tread, planting prairie seeds, clearing space around ancient bur oaks so they can capture sun and wind, telling the stories of past journeys by our long-ago ancestors, or traveling those rivers and trails, we are all partaking of “the geography of hope.” We

inhabit that landscape as it resides both in our souls and on the land and water we work to preserve. We expand that landscape, “the geography of hope,” through our work making and sustaining the national scenic and historic trails.

“The geography of hope” is a way of expressing what native Hawaiians, working to revive the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail as a regularly used way to travel along the shore of Hawaii, once explained to me as the inherent and inseparable link between the people and the land. They said the Hawaiian language did not separate people from the land the way that English does as if we exist outside the nurturing womb of the Earth. “The geography of hope” is both within us and spread across the land as we are inherently creatures of the Earth.

Another way of expressing that essential link is voiced in “The Answer” by the poet Robinson Jeffers: “Integrity is wholeness, the greatest beauty is Organic wholeness, the wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty of the universe. Love that, not man apart from that...” I see that love manifest in the care with which so many citizen volunteers and professional staff sustain our trails and in the care they have for their comrades in stewardship.

With that understanding and in that spirit, let us begin the second half-century of the National Trails System resolved to redouble our efforts to be as inclusive as possible in inviting a diverse population to join us to:

- Close the gaps in our national trails;
- Permanently preserve more of the special places along them;
- More completely interpret the important historic sites along them including the multiple stories and perspectives about the history;
- Help all of our citizens and visitors find their place and way along our national trails.

We have much joyful, good work to do together within “the geography of hope.” Let us “proceed on.”

Gary Werner

2018 Highlights

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Outreach

- Organized and led a collaboration with Federal agency partners and leaders of American Trails, American Hiking Society, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System by disseminating information to the general public, organizing and supporting special events, and engaging the outdoor retailers at the Summer Outdoor Retailer Show.
- Collaborated with the American Hiking Society to help organize and guide the Hike the Hill advocacy week in February for Federal trails funding and policy support. More than 120 trails leaders participated in the advocacy work.
- Organized and ran the 16th Training Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails co-located with the Wild & Scenic Rivers Symposium in Vancouver, WA in October. The training conference was attended by more than 220 trail organization leaders, Federal agency trail managers, and 33 young Trail Apprentices.
- Published and distributed four issues of *Pathways Across America*, prepared and distributed a monthly PNTS e-News, and prepared and gave monthly webinars on a variety of topics pertinent to trail and organization management and best practices.

Protection

- Continued to actively participate, as a member of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, in the advocacy work to get Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Prepared and submitted testimony to Congress detailing the funding needed by the three Federal administering agencies to operate the 30 national scenic and historic trails, and requesting \$43 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire 45 tracts of land along 11 national trails.
- Participated in a series of meetings and activities with trail staff of the U.S. Forest Service to help them develop a National Trails Strategy and 10-Year Sustainable Trails Stewardship Challenge to address how to better maintain the 158,000 miles of trails in the national forests.

Capacity

- Organized and managed a competitive Trail Intern Grant Program that dispensed \$190,000 from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to 20 of the national scenic and historic trails partnerships to fund work by young trail interns on behalf of their trails.
- Secured a \$200,000 two-year cooperative agreement from the Federal Highway Administration to help fund increases in the information exchange services (magazine, webinars, e-newsletter) provided by the PNTS and to fund a National Trail System Corridor Protection project with the Trust for Public Land, including doing a gap analysis of the national trails.
- Expanded the Affiliate Membership opportunities in the PNTS and began to establish a Supporter Program to greatly expand the base of financial support for the organization.

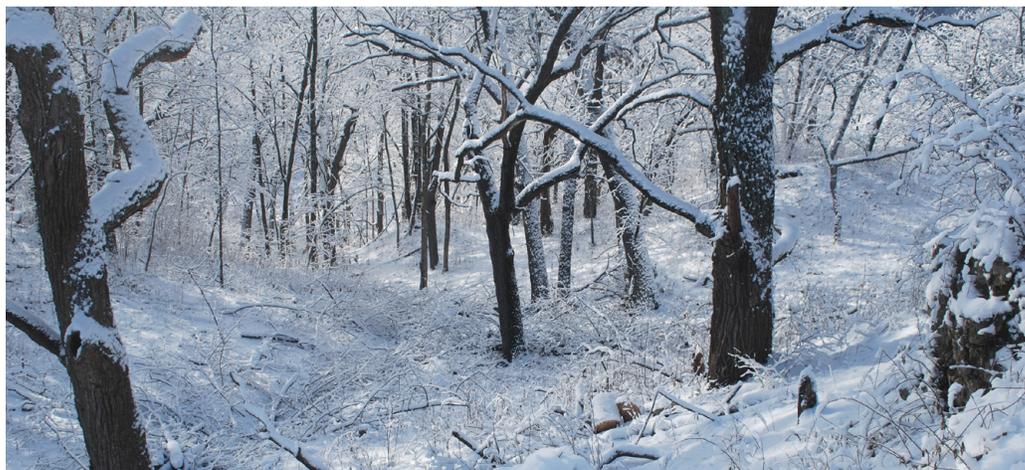


Photo Credit: Gary Werner

Above: New Year's Day 2019 in the Cross Plains National Scientific Reserve, Ice Age National Scenic Trail.



Partnership for the National Trails System

MISSION

To empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to develop, preserve, promote, and sustain the national scenic and historic trails.

VISION

PNTS envisions a world-class system of national scenic and historic trails that preserves natural and cultural values and provides recreational benefits for all.

PURPOSE

The purpose of PNTS is to promote and support the efforts of national scenic and historic trail organizations, to secure public and private resources, and to serve as a collective voice for policy and action that supports national scenic and historic trails.



Decade Goals

1
OUTREACH AND
PUBLIC AWARENESS

See Page 9

2
RESOURCE PROTECTION
AND TRAIL COMPLETION

See Page 12

3
CAPACITY BUILDING

See Page 15

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)

Outreach

- Stationed 30 ridgerunners along the Trail to assist thousands of day hikers, weekend backpackers and thru-hikers—providing essential Leave No Trace™ information while monitoring and maintaining the state of the A.T.
- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of NNTSA with several regional events and an online interview with authors Cheryl Strayed and Jennifer Pharr Davis.



Photo Credit: ATPCT.org

Protection

- Worked with partners to add nearly 28,000 acres of open space surrounding the A.T. Land acquisitions varied from nearly 3,000 acres of scenic forestland in southwestern Virginia, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Forestry, and more than 200 prime hillside acres in Dutchess County, NY.
- Continued to oppose the Mountain Valley Pipeline near Roanoke, VA, and united 30 trail clubs in ATC's comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding pipeline siting recommendations.
- Completed dozens of trail projects: repairing and rerouting the A.T., felling hazardous trees, improving overnight sites, and placing the final step on the trail at Bear Mountain, NY, completing a 12-year redesign and rebuild of a section of the A.T. that sees the most traffic.
- Addressed invasive species, fragmented habitat, and diminishing wildlife.

Capacity

- Hosted 100 "super volunteers" for two days of training and goal-setting on how best to maintain the trail and engage new stewards.
- Partnered with ten youth corps to improve the trail and overnight sites, engaging over 100 high-energy trail champions.



Arizona Trail Association (ATA)

Outreach

- Translated Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbook into Spanish and distributed throughout the State.
- Installed eight new Gateway Community signs in four communities.
- Partnered with Latino Outdoors to engage more diverse volunteers.
- New, modern website.

Capacity

- New digital volunteer management platform.
- Facilitated successful internship program.



Photo Credit: ATA

Protection

- Signed MOU with county and private landowner to allow singletrack construction (to replace dirt road segment of the Arizona NST) with trail construction to begin in 2019.
- Installed 17 new gates to protect the trail from motorized abuse.



Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)

Continental Divide Trail Society (CDTS)



Outreach

- CDTC, partner organizations, and agency partners signed the entire trail by its 40th anniversary through the "Blaze the CDT" effort.
- CDTC added three new Gateway Communities.
- CDTC expanded its Trail Adopter program by adding over 50 new trail adopters and produced a new training curriculum in partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.
- CDTC expanded its reach and raised trail awareness through a 9-part series on Denver 9News, a two month exhibit in Denver's International Airport, and the release of a new coffee table book with Rizzoli Press, "The Continental Divide Trail" by Barney Scout Mann.
- CDTS presented at the Gathering of the American Long Distance Hiking Association and published an annual review of its activities and developments.

Protection

- CDTC cohosted the Next100 Colorado Roundtable.
- CDTC produced two small business sign-on letters that demonstrated support for the CDT and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by its small business partners in communities along the CDT in Colorado and New Mexico.
- CDTS appealed a decision by BLM that would allow heli-skiing operations along several miles of the CDT near Silverton, CO; reviewed and commented on proposed revisions to national forest plans and relocations, including the section between Sheridan Pass and Togwotee Pass, WY; and joined other environmental organizations by contacting members of Congress and responsible agencies regarding the reauthorization and funding of LWCF and the maintenance of protected areas for the greater sage-grouse.

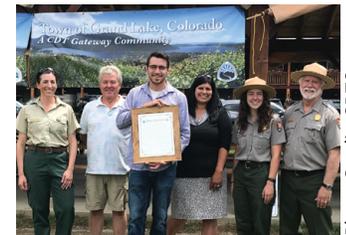


Photo Credit: CDTC

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

Florida Trail Association (FTA)



Photo Credit: Ade Christian, FTA



Outreach

- Rejuvenated the Gateway Communities program in nine towns along the length of the trail.
- Introduced the first ever Florida Trail Passport. Stamps can be collected at participating Gateway Community businesses as a fun way for hikers to engage and support towns they hike through.

Protection

- Removed over 19 miles of roadwalk connectors with FTA's partners in communities across Florida. This was accomplished with reroutes and new public access agreements with private landowners.

Capacity

- FTA, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the FNST Coalition, released the 2018 5-Year Strategic plan. Structured around four main goals, this comprehensive guide sets an ambitious course for the trail.



Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA)



Photo Credit: Mike Wollmer, IATA

Outreach

- Celebrated 60 years of IATA supporting the trail. More than 300 community members and volunteers gathered in August at Ice Age Trail Days in Cross Plains, WI, both the headquarters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and a designated Ice Age Trail Community. The event showcased a trail building project constructing one mile of new trail, a farm-to-table community dinner, workshops, and guided hikes.
- Welcomed five new Ice Age Trail Communities.
- Partnered with 19 school districts in 2018 for Saunters program to engage 2,390 youth and educators (2,171 students, 219 educators/adults) with nature and the trail through hikes, service learning, and a backpacking trip.
- Kicked off a new pilot program, From the Inside Out, which works to engage urban populations with natural space and increase diversity in Alliance supporters by partnering with established and trusted community centers located in the Madison, WI area. Changing who we are, the services we provide, and how we talk about the trail will be done through a series of conversations and events that bring underserved and underrepresented populations to the table.
- Increased exposure of Trail Safe! safety videos on the IATR website with over 1,100 unique views.

Protection

- IATA and partners protected an additional three miles of trail via six land transactions.
- Acquired two properties near John Muir's boyhood home near Ennis (Fountain) Lake.
- Secured a 40-acre parcel atop the terminal moraine in the ever-growing Dane County. The heavily wooded property was purchased by the City of Madison, WI with the assistance of Dane County and helps buffer the city's own advancement, thereby creating a green belt for a future section of the trail.

Capacity

- Completed the majority of IATA's identified priorities during the first full year of its current strategic plan.
- Committed to expanding IATA's national headquarters in Cross Plains, WI, which is near completion and now in use.
- Over the next couple of years, IATA expects to add two to three full-time equivalents to support its expanding programmatic work in support of its volunteers and mission.
- Set volunteerism records with both individuals (2,620) and cumulative hours (81,999).
- New Ice Age Trail Superintendent, Eric Gabriel, selected in fall 2018.



Natchez Trace Parkway Association

Outreach

- The National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway Association, and Chickasaw Nation representatives presented educational guided hikes along sections of the historic trail to observe the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System. News articles about the event increased awareness of the trail and the benefits it provides to nearby communities.



Photo Credit: NTPA

Protection

- Improved significant sections of trail by bringing them up to standard.

Capacity

- Developed a new program to train volunteer coordinators to supervise maintenance work on the trail. Community volunteers from three States attended half-day sessions to receive training in trail maintenance standards and then participated in hands-on training on the trail. Community organizations adopted sections of trail to maintain.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Illustration Credit: Jonathan Scheele, Open Sky Ideas

Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA)

Outreach

- Launched the NET Hike 50 Challenge, which attracted more than 1,500 participants from 16 States and four countries who hiked, ran, volunteered, and shared pictures and stories.
- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act with art and music. NET artist-in-residence Ben Cosgrove gave a yearlong series of concerts inspired by his trail experience, and illustrator Jonathan Scheele designed a beautiful poster celebrating the trail and anniversary.

Capacity

- Bolstered summer trail crews. AMC partnered with CareerPoint in Holyoke, MA to establish the first Spanish-speaking teen crew to tackle projects along the trail. CFPA's summer crews focused on trail relocations in Durham and Simsbury, CT to take advantage of more sustainable grades and reduce erosion.

Protection

- Enhanced public access through the Conway School of Landscape Design's comprehensive plan for enhancing public access along the scenic Holyoke Range, MA, one of the trail's most popular areas. The plan included a carrying capacity assessment, site designs, and community trail connections. It is the catalyst for a new conservation partnership between AMC, Kestrel Land Trust, Massachusetts Parks, and the Town of Amherst.
- Installed more than 20 new signs in Connecticut and Massachusetts by communities, trail crews, and volunteers at key trailheads and along trails and roadways. The goal is a more legible and welcoming experience for hikers and walkers.



North Country Trail Association (NCTA)

Outreach

- Continued the Hike 100 program, encouraging hikers to log 100 miles on the trail and added a Hike 50 program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. More than 1,000 people from 24 States earned their patches for completion and many more participated in the program.
- Launched the Next Generation Coalition, engaging 23 NCT Community members from Generation Y and Z.
- Worked with NPS to develop an Interpretive Media plan to guide volunteers through the process of developing interpretive media to enhance visitor experiences.

Protection

- NPS office acquired the first properties on behalf of the NCT; an 80 acre parcel in Michigan that protects one and a half miles of trail and a 200-acre parcel in Wisconsin that provides a integral connection for the trail corridor. A project is underway on the Michigan property to restore the land to a native prairie landscape.

Capacity

- Trained 50 new North Country Trail Crew Leaders in Michigan and Minnesota, utilizing the newly launched Crew Leader Training program.
- NCTA partnered with NPS to revise the NCT Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance; providing volunteers with an updated resource for building and maintaining the trail.



Photo Credit: PCTA

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

Outreach

- Launched PCTA's Trail Town pilot program with the city of Mt. Shasta, CA, featuring a major public event July 21, 2018.
- Organized a joint event with Appalachian Trail Conservancy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of both trails' establishment as national scenic trails. "Two Sister Trails, One Celebration," a live, four hour webcast from Harpers Ferry, WV and Sacramento, CA on October 2, 2018, featured an interview with Cheryl Strayed and was viewed by thousands online.

Protection

- PCTA worked with the U.S. Forest Service to transfer three properties to public ownership: Landers Meadow in the southern Sierra, Donomore Meadows in northern California, and Stevens Pass in Washington. These parcels totaled 807 acres and included three-quarters of a mile of the PCT. Their transfer to public ownership will permanently protect the viewshed of four miles of the PCT, 200 acres of wet meadows, and wildlife habitat for multiple species including the northern spotted owl, great gray owl, deer, elk, and wolves.

Capacity

- Hired PCTA's first regional representative for the southern Sierra region, which is one of the most iconic regions and home to some of the most heavily used parts of the trail. The new regional representative, who starts January 2019, will facilitate an increased focus on volunteer training, partnership building, outreach and education, and trail maintenance. More than just maintaining the trail in backcountry wilderness, the PCTA now has the capacity needed to tackle the challenges of increased trail use, the growing effects of climate change, and increasing development pressures. The southern Sierra program will also allow PCTA to build the foundation for the long-planned 37-mile Tejon Ranch trail reroute through the Tehachapis Mountains, consistent with the original vision for the trail's route.



Photo Credit: Chief Noonday Chapter, NCTA

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Pacific Northwest
Trail Association
(PNTA)



Outreach

- Launched an entirely new, feature rich website to promote the PNT and provide trail users with up-to-date information for enjoying the trail safely and responsibly.
- Installed new PNT thunderbird servicemark signage along the length of the trail in five national forests and numerous state-managed units through Project Thunderbird.
- Held Spring Ruck, an educational event in partnership with the American Long Distance Hiking Association—West in Bellingham, WA.
- Released a revised second version of the PNTA map set for the trail and partnered with Atlas Guides to release the first official navigation app for the trail.

Protection

- Supported a local land trust in the acquisition of an easement to ensure permanent public access for the trail across private land on Whidbey Island.
- PNTA partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and University of Montana to support an internship to study trail use in Western Montana and the Idaho Panhandle.
- Engaged with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to find visitor use management solutions for the trail's route across the Tribe's ancestral lands.

Capacity

- Developed PNTA's new four-year strategic plan.
- Added two new permanent full time positions with PNTA: Eastern and Western Washington Regional Coordinators.



Photo Credit: Jeff Kish, PNTA



Photo Credit: PHTA



Potomac Heritage
Trail Association
(PHTA)



Outreach

- Organized a four-day, 100-mile hike across Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, VA from Brunswick, MD, along mostly unpaved, low traffic roads to Leesburg, VA (which could be an interim Potomac Heritage Trail route), then via the PHT to Great Falls and the Fairfax Cross-County Trail to Occoquan. The event will be held twice in 2019 (around Memorial Day and Veterans Day weekends), extended to cross a third count (Prince William) with three major new boardwalks being completed in 2019.

Protection

- PHTA volunteers, with the support of numerous Federal, State, and local elected representatives, helped secure a Transportation Alternatives Program grant of \$60,000 to do a feasibility study of a critical missing link for the PHT in southern Fairfax County, VA. This route will pass under busy Interstate 95 and cross the CSX main east coast railway. It will enable commuters and bicyclists to access Lorton's Virginia Railway Express station from neighborhoods that have no easy access now.

Capacity

- As part of REI Co-Op's \$24,000 awards to each of the national scenic trails, PHTA proposed a study of an approximately 300-foot boardwalk across Powells Creek near Dumfries, VA. The boardwalk would remove a long, circuitous section of the trail that is on busy roads and instead route it through an estuary and a scenic stream valley.

Decade Goal 1: Outreach and Public Awareness

In the challenge of protecting land, constructing trail on the ground, mapping the trail, and all the logistical challenges of managing trails, outreach may at first seem like a luxury. Yet there is a reason Outreach is listed as the first goal for the Decade for the National Trails and that is because community engagement, education, and public awareness are truly prerequisites for both the protection and the capacity building of the National Trails System.

The demand on our public lands and natural resources will only increase, and trails can play a major part in engaging individuals and communities with public treasures. Relationships to land offer perhaps the greatest potential in preserving resources in light of demand from other interests, because people protect land that carries personal memories, tells stories relevant to them, and facilitates quality time with family and friends. Communities protect lands that offer recreational and fitness value, bring in tourism dollars, and offer practical solutions to transportation and green space needs.

Similarly, the capacity of organizations to build, maintain, and serve as stewards for the trails and their corridors is directly linked to effective outreach. Volunteers and donors assist organizations that have reached out to them and showed them the location and value of the trails. Outreach thus represents an investment in the future capacity of organizations. Perhaps that investment will pay out in a few days, when someone who partakes in an educational event comes back to help with trail building, or perhaps, in the case of young children, the investment leads to the long-term sustainability and public awareness of the trail. Either way, outreach can be viewed not as taxing the resources of an organization, but as a direct effort toward trail stewardship development.

Pathways to the Future

Trail and river communities converge in Pacific Northwest to mark 50 years

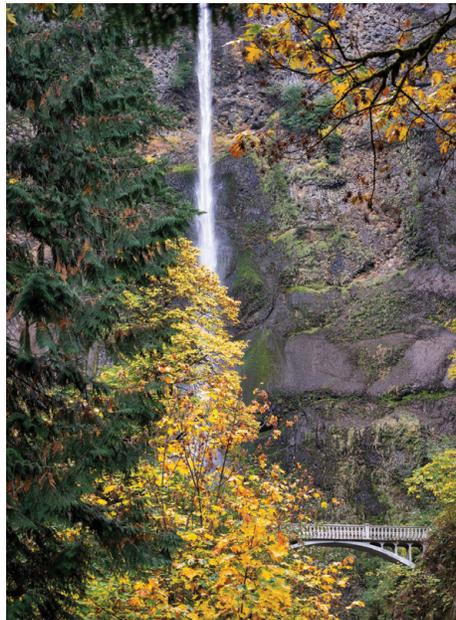
After over a year of planning and much anticipation, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and River Management Society hosted co-located events in Vancouver, WA from October 22-25, 2018 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts. The side-by-side events, featuring several joint sessions and mobile workshops, brought together private and public organizations and Federal agencies dedicated to the preservation of the nation's wild, scenic, and historic places.

The 16th National Trails System Conference and Training drew more than 220 people to the Pacific Northwest, where several of our national scenic, historic, recreation, rail, and water trails converge. While the year-long #findyourtrail campaign and hundreds of partner events around the country encouraged people to enjoy the many benefits national trails provide, we're reminded that they are still works in progress requiring further development, protection, and support. "There's a place for every kind of American in the National Trails System," said Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director, "But we have a long way to go to make that real."

Several of the workshops, keynote speakers, and panel discussions addressed the fundamental challenges of the National Trails System and started to identify the opportunities that will be needed for the National Trails System to succeed to its full potential in the next 50 years. Under the umbrella of the "Pathways to the Future" theme were five session tracks: trail land management and resource conservation, engaging new audiences, strengthening your organization, creating strong trails on the ground, and innovation and technology. Off-site mobile workshops included visits to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Oregon National Historic Trail, Columbia River, Mount St. Helens, and various State parks and national wildlife refuges.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Opening keynote speaker Carolyn Finney, Ph.D., author of "Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors," aims to develop greater cultural competency within environmental organizations and institutions. Finney shared her family's complicated history



with the outdoors, that resiliency—not fear—defines us, and how "you can't bring diversity to your table and not expect to change."

The conversation continued on the topic of "Increasing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" with fellow Next 100 Coalition panelists Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and Kevin Bryan, Senior Policy Director with the Keystone Policy Center. The trio answered questions from the full room and stressed the importance of creating emerging spaces in order to bring this intersection of marginalized voices together. "Keep showing up," Finney said, "If it feels uncomfortable, you're doing something different."

The National Park Foundation (NPF) previewed its "Love Your Park" (LYP) campaign, an extension of the Find Your Park initiative meant to encourage more Americans to become stewards of their national parks. By uniting diverse partners, the goal is to accomplish more through collaboration, from contributing additional volunteer time, service corps projects, and financial support. Marya Skotte, NPF Community Partnerships Coordinator, was joined on stage by nonprofit pilot partners Joanne VanCoevern, Manager of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and Andrea Ketchmark and Valerie Bader, Executive Director and Director of Development of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA). "At first look (LYP) was a funding source, but it truly is a network we could learn from,"



Above: Next 100 Coalition members Carolyn Finney, Ph.D., Kevin Bryan, and Teresa Martinez participate in a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion panel.

Photo Credit: Samantha Haas

Left: An educational field trip along the Oregon National Historic Trail featured a stop at Multnomah Falls.

Photo Credit: Gustavo Vasquez

Ketchmark said. Bader described how LYP helped NCTA chapters and volunteers with the soft and hard skills necessary for their crew leader training program, chainsaw training in the event of a natural disaster, and updating the trail's handbook for trail design, construction, and maintenance. Skotte said LYP will strengthen the parks and trails community by collaborating and sharing their progress and challenges through calls and webinars. Once the program is launched in 2019, NPF will offer mini-grants so partners can, for example, increase capacity to manage volunteers or launch new programs.

Nicole Browning, Senior Program Manager of REI, said the big question is how do we cultivate the next generation of trail stewards on the journey toward gender equity. In REI's view, that's leveling the playing field and increasing access to the outdoors through its holistic For All and Force of Nature efforts by changing the narrative, creating community through events and experiences, and closing the gear gap. For example, the Ice Age and Arizona national scenic trails have both been recipients of these Force of Nature grants, providing more opportunities for girls and women through their Trailtessa Retreats and Gear Girls program, respectively. "It's important to think intentionally about equity," Browning said.

The closing speaker was "Fire Season" and "A Song for the River" author Philip Connors, who said he was "expecting solitude and



Learn about initiatives underway from our next generation of trail stewards by watching the Trail Talks:

youtu.be/zT0FQf2Ar7E

Right: Trail Apprentices meet with U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen.

Photo Credit: Meredith Meeks



found solidarity” as a fire lookout in New Mexico’s Gila National Forest. Connors read portions of his work, evoking emotions of his respect for thru-hikers he met on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and his grief surrounding the tragic loss of young advocates for the Gila River. Moved to sing a verse of “Down to the River to Pray,” Connors was quietly joined by some members of the rivers and trails audience. He said his experiences “rearranged the landscapes of my life in ways I’d never seen.”

TRAIL APPRENTICES

A record of 33 young adults received scholarships to attend the training conference as Trail Apprentices. Kaleo Paik, a member of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, sang and distributed a kukui nut lei necklace to each of the Trail Apprentices as a “makana,” or gift. One of the Trail Apprentices who is a park ranger at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park also exhibited this notion of makana by sharing Hawaiian proverbs with attendees later in the conference. “One of the best schools is the environment, and we are the parents of the land,” Maianna Taylor said, sharing the word “kuleana,” which means responsibility.

Trail Apprentices had the opportunity to talk to U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen prior to her address at the opening reception, and the USFS also offered focus sessions on the development of the agency’s 10-Year Trail Challenge.

Trail Apprentices heard directly from several nonprofit, corporate, and Federal representatives about career development during a leadership panel. They included Finney, Bryan, Martinez, Suzanne Dixon (President and CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy), Rob Coughlin (Vice President - Sales and Product Development of Granite Gear), Taldi Waters (Government and Community Affairs Manager of REI), Jeff Reinbold (Assistant Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement with the National Park Service), Susan Spear (Director of Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers with the U.S. Forest Service), and Deb Salt (National Scenic and Historic Trails Program Lead with the Bureau of

Land Management).

Ten of the Trail Apprentices were also selected to present “Trail Talks” on topics ranging from connecting trails to communities, using technology and storytelling for community engagement on public lands and trails, building an inclusive environment outdoors, and examining trail management. This phenomenal group continues to keep in touch and share job opportunities through a Facebook group hosted by the Partnership.

TRAIL SUPPORTER AWARDS

The Partnership for the National Trails System also presented three awards to individuals who have demonstrated lifetime dedication or significant contributions to the development, promotion, and protection of trails within the National Trails System.

Helen Scully was the recipient of the Extraordinary Trail Partner Award in recognition of her 18 years of service as the National Recreation Trails Coordinator with the National Park Service and her quiet, persistent, and cheerful support of the National Trails System through projects such as guiding the development of Trail Data Standards, faithfully proofreading *Pathways Across America*, and providing administrative support for the Federal Interagency Council on Trails.

Bart Smith received the Lifetime Achievement Award - Volunteer in recognition of his inspiring achievement over 25 years in hiking the 30 national scenic and historic trails to capture the unique character of each trail through thousands of photographs and for sharing them in six books and photo exhibits so that everyone can experience the beauty of and be inspired by the trails.

Karen Lutz received the Lifetime Achievement Award - Staff in recognition of her 30 years of dedicated service as a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy staff, successfully solving some of the most challenging obstacles to providing a safe, high quality experience along the entire AT while cheerfully inspiring those with whom she has worked, as well as her support of the Partnership, the National Trails System, and its trail organizations.



Find **YOUR** Trail
Discover. Connect.
Explore.

By the Numbers

650,000

Views on Trails50 Facebook page

150,000

Estimated attendance of all events

140,000

Views on Trails50.org website

129,000

Times #findyourway hashtag used

52,000

Times #findyourtrail hashtag used

33,000

50th anniversary articles written

24,267

Pieces of Trails50 merchandise sold

5,220

Followers on Trails50 social media

1,558

Sign ups for Trails50 e-news

300

Photo contest submissions received

242

Events added to Trails50 map

220

October conference registrants

70

Stories shared on Trails50 blog

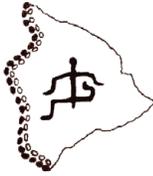
9

Nonprofit partners and Federal agencies collaborated on this 50th anniversary effort



www.trails50.org

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA) E Mau Nā Ala Hele (E Mau)

Outreach

- AKTA conducted seven hikes along portions of the trail and six community events.
- AKTA worked with a trail intern to create a presentation template that was used as an educational piece for six community meetings.
- E Mau supports community and National Park Service events along the trail, including sponsoring "Free Walk and Talks" along portions of the trail in Kohala and Puako.
- E Mau celebrated National Trails Days by walking from Lapakahi State Park to Kapaa with interpretive guides, and celebrated "Life of the Trail" by hiking from Kekaha State Park to the beach along the mauka-makai trail commemorating the Trails Act of 1892 that states all trails in Hawaii will be open to all.
- E Mau participated in educational booths at the Annual Run for the Dry Forest and at the Ohia Festival held at the Imiloa Astronomy Center.

Protection

- AKTA received 100 acres as a donation and is in the process of closing on 2,300 acres of land in Kau and 800 acres of conservation easement, which the trail traverses through.

Capacity

- E Mau is laying the framework to review the ten year strategic plan and assess its achievement.



Photo Credit: AKTA



Photo Credit: Kelsey Everett



Chesapeake Conservancy

Outreach

- The Department of Interior celebrated the recognition of Virginia Tribes at Werowocomoco. This archeological site, now under the permanent protection of the National Park Service, is not yet open to the public until planning is completed with American Indian tribes who hold this place as sacred.
- The National Park Service and Chesapeake Conservancy screened the award-winning short film, "Werowocomoco: Protecting a Powhatan Place of Power," which was made in cooperation with Tribal community members. The video has been viewed over 44,600 times.
- Key nonprofit partners continued robust programming along the trail.

Protection

- The Chesapeake Conservancy celebrated the acquisition of a new trail-front park in the city of Seaford, DE on the Nanticoke River with Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE), Seaford Mayor David Genshaw, and the National Park Service on October 12, 2018. The 1-acre parcel was donated to the city to become a small waterfront park with a kayak launch and other amenities, with the intent to facilitate public access to the river.

Capacity

- 2018 was a year of transition for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The National Park Service shifted management of the trail from the Chesapeake NPS office in Annapolis, MD to Colonial National Historic Park, VA in June 2018.
- Chesapeake Conservancy created a new position and hired a Digital Resources Coordinator.

Decade Goal 2: Resource Protection and Trail Completion

In 2008, as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Congress' passage of the National Trails System Act, our joy was tempered by the knowledge of how unfinished the trails system is. Although Congress has authorized 11 national scenic and 19 national historic trails, only one—the Appalachian National Scenic Trail—is fully open for the use for which it is intended (an off-road footpath for hikers). The 19 national historic trails are similarly incomplete. For 16 of those trails nearly 2,400 "high potential sites or segments"—the best pieces of these trails still intact—have been documented. Barely 25 percent of these sites are properly protected to preserve their resources and the setting of the landscapes that can evoke clear images of the historic past for trail visitors. Decade Goal 2 was devised to focus attention on these critical deficiencies and to accelerate efforts to "complete" the scenic and historic trails by the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System in 2018.

Several objectives and a number of specific actions lay out a sequence of concerted programs and activities to:

- Conduct natural, cultural, and historic resource inventories of each of the trails;
- Develop land management plans that protect those resources and their landscape settings on all sections of the trails on public lands;
- Develop land protection plans to guide efforts to secure permanent corridors for each of the trails across private land and to secure the funding and staffing to systematically acquire land from willing sellers;
- Develop interpretive plans for the scenic trails as well as the historic trails to guide installation of facilities, systems, and activities to tell the stories of the trails and the resources they feature and protect;
- Build and maintain the tread, structures, and interpretive facilities and manage the adjacent lands to enable the public to fully appreciate and use all national scenic and historic trails.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT)



Protection

- ELCAT dedicated the Lobanillo Swales on April 26, 2018. Composed of seven remnants of the Royal Road in east Texas, Lobanillo was one of the most threatened historic resources in Texas, as activities such as fracking and the harvesting of timber threatened the site. With the support of local officials and citizens, as well as Federal and State partners like the National Park Service (NPS) and Texas Historical Commission (THC), ELCAT raised nearly \$50,000 for the protection and development of the site.
- Three landowners in Milam County worked with partners to conduct historic and archaeological research of their properties, and all certified their sites as parts of the trail with the NPS.
- The National Parks Conservation Association and local partners started a project that will be many years in the making to create a hikeable and bikeable retracement trail between Austin and San Antonio, TX.

Capacity

- ELCAT held a board retreat and training in Bastrop, TX in April. Board members and Federal agency officials from the NPS and THC engaged in a two-day trail orientation training, reviewing the newly implemented strategic plan and sharing their backgrounds so that strengths of volunteers could be ascertained and tapped into.
- ELCAT initiated the creation of talking points and outreach materials for use by volunteers and agency officials when conducting business related to the trail.
- ELCAT brought on three new interns to assist with GIS mapping, the creation of a traveling exhibit for the trail, and for general administrative duties, and NPS acquired a new intern to help with creation of sign plans for roadway signing along the trail.
- ELCAT increased volunteer capacity as many individuals have been researching and mapping trail resources in locations across the trail and reaching out to local officials to enlighten them as to the importance of the trail to Texas and Louisiana history.

Photo Credit: Jeff Sibley



Outreach

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department featured the trail in its Spring 2018 magazine and during its weekly PBS series, which aired across Texas in February 2018. It's estimated that 100,000s of viewers were exposed to the trail during the premier and more during rebroadcasts.
- ELCAT began the process of creating a traveling exhibit that will tour Texas and Louisiana.
- ELCAT established its first Model Trail Community in Milam County, TX.
- ELCAT worked with partners to document Native American and Spanish aspects of the trail in the Rancheria Grande in Central Texas and at Los Corralitos on the Rio Grande.
- ELCAT dedicated signage at La Villita in San Antonio, attended by elected officials and other partners, and the Lobanillo Swales, which receives over 100 visitors per month and is seen as Sabine County's biggest tourism attraction.



Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA)

Outreach

- Held CARTA's Annual General Meeting and Conference on September 29, 2018, attended by over 60 registrants. The meeting generated new memberships and the resumption of the publication of the Chronicles of the Trail that was distributed there.
- Participated in the Second Annual Camino Real Trade Fair in October at the Gutierrez-Hubble House in Albuquerque, NM.
- Established a working relationship with the Friends of the Camino Real based in Socorro, NM to further the knowledge and preservation of the trail.
- CARTA saw the completion of signage to mark the trail in El Paso, TX.

Capacity

- Completed an update to the CARTA strategic plan, and initiated an update to the CARTA bylaws that will include a restructuring of committees and membership categories.



Photo Credit: Pat Bonilla



**55,000 miles
of education and inspiration
for the next generation.**

The National Trails System creates a foundation for success for thousands of youth and serves as the ultimate outdoor classroom, from studying water quality and retracing ancestral footsteps to building leadership skills on trail crews and learning healthy habits.



Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA)

Outreach

- Hired a summer intern with a PNTS grant for the 40th anniversary of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) and the 50th anniversary



Photo Credit: Jacob Torres

- of the National Trail System Act to develop social media posts about the historic trail. More than 20 social media posts were created with over 20,000 views and 2,100 interactions.
- Updated and revised the visitor guide for the INHT, which was printed and distributed to communities and partners.
- Partnered with Seward Trail Blazers to print and distribute a trail brochure for Mile Zero of the INHT.
- Sponsored an Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC) teacher Alumni Workshop in the ninth year of the program. During the first eight years (2010-2018), 120 teachers completed the yearlong place-based service learning professional development program that connects youth and communities along the trail, promoting resource stewardship, recreation, and community engagement.

Protection

- Partners developed a draft INHT Southern Trek Stewardship Plan with the assistance of a Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program grant to the IHTA.
- Successfully organized three first-time volunteer trail events, which experienced strong and enthusiastic community and local business support: Moose Pass Trail near Rocky Creek (400 feet of trail built), Upper Winner Creek (800 feet widened and brushed), and Crow Pass Trail in Girdwood (600 feet improved and widened).

Capacity

- Established a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Chugach National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, to promote the trail, story, and stewardship of the INHT.



Anza Trail Foundation (ATF) and partners



Photo Credit: Beverly Lane, ATF

Outreach

- Used the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System to reflect on the effects of the Anza Expedition and future opportunities to engage new and underserved communities.
- ATF board member Beverly Lane prepared an exhibit, "Native Peoples and the Anza Expedition," at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville, CA, from the vantage point of the 24 Tribes whose trails Anza followed from New Spain to the San Francisco Bay. It included four paintings by artists commissioned by the California Indian Heritage Center Foundation.
- Anza Society International held a White Cane Day on the proposed site of an Accessible Anza Trail Experience near the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind for over 150 students and staff, NPS staff, and Anza Society volunteers.

Protection

- Pima County, AZ completed and certified 47 miles of multi-use Anza Recreation Trail as part of "The Tucson Loop," a 130-mile system of shared-use paths and bike lanes which follow the Santa Cruz River through Tucson, AZ. Included in the completion of this 17-year project by the county are five certified historic campsites and three certified interpretive sites. Pima County and the Anza Trail celebrated this project with the public and elected officials, including Congressman Raul Grijalva.



Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. (LCT)

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF)

Outreach

- Sent a plush toy puppy named Seaman Jr. into space and on the International Space Station (ISS) to celebrate the NTSA 50th, and coordinated a downlink so astronauts could talk to over 100 fourth graders about the dog.
- LCTHF awarded small-scale (\$500 to \$1,000) education grants and supported National History Day with \$1,000 prizes in the junior and senior high awards categories.
- LCTHF initiated the Moulton Lecture Series to annually highlight the exemplary work of Lewis and Clark scholars.
- LCT collaborated with NPS trail representatives and Yellowstone Forever on the second Honoring Tribal Legacies residential workshops, which entailed learning core values of traditional American Indian cultures and learning traditional games to interpret along the trail. Participants received a Level I Certification from the International Traditional Games Society.
- LCT partnered with the Friends of Big Bone for educational programming at Big Bone Lick Historic Site, KY. More than 3,200 school children and chaperons visited the "classroom without walls" portion of the Salt Festival, where they learned that in 1803 and 1807 Lewis and Clark excavated prehistoric bones and other material for President Thomas Jefferson along the trail.



Photo Credit: James Blair, NASA

Protection

- LCTHF worked with Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN) to pass H.R. 3045 and Sens. Todd Young (R-IN) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) on Senate companion bill S.3375, which was included in an Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands Bill to be voted on in 2019.
- LCTHF initiated an ad hoc committee to explore and identify threats and issues along the trail.
- LCTHF signed a new five-year NPS Signs Cooperative agreement to replace existing signs in need of repair along the trail to complement the continued efforts with Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment Grants.
- Cooperated with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Helena National Forest, and Lewis and Clark NHT to purchase 640 acres of timberland through the Green Mountain acquisition, adjacent to and in the viewsheds of the Lewis and Clark NHT and Continental Divide NST.

Capacity

- LCTHF board approved a new strategic plan in March 2018, and experienced a ten percent increase in membership from membership drives and promotion from its "We Proceeded On" journal editor.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



Mormon Trails Association (MTA)

Outreach

- In October, a 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act event was held at Richardson's Point, IA, which included the dedication of new signs that mark this important location along the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. Richardson's Point was where the first Mormon expedition unexpectedly camped for 12 days in 1846 due to heavy rains. While camped at the point, some of the first deaths on the trail occurred, and two marked graves are located on the property.



Photo Credit: Mormon Pioneer NHT



Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA)



Outreach

- The Mojave Chapter hosted its annual Old Spanish Trail Day October 5-7, 2018.
- Attended the PNTS training conference in Vancouver, WA, with representation from six OSTA board members and two staff.
- A 12-year effort, led by ex-Armijo Chapter president James Page, to list a 1776 Spanish inscription in the National Register of Historic Places came to fruition with the site's formal listing on August 17, 2018.
- Completed two Recreation and Development Strategies for the Mesa/Delta Colorado OST and the Grand County Utah OST.
- The Descendants and Travelers on the Trail Chapter coordinated and compiled historic biographical profiles, accessible at www.oldspanishtrail.org.

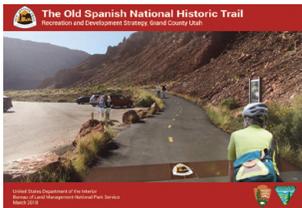


Photo Credit: BLM, NPS

Protection

- Certified three sites: John Wesley Powell River History Museum in Moab, UT, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, CA, and Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe in Montebello, CA.
- Made an agreement with Southern Utah University to archive OSTA materials through a grant from the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board.

Capacity

- Hired Lynn Brittner as OSTA Executive Director and Kitty Nicholason as Designer/Editor of "Spanish Traces." Appointed Dennis Brown, Vice President, and Melinda Arviso-Ciocco, New Mexico State Director, to the OSTA board.



Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF)



Outreach

- Held a scholarship award program for outstanding Native American students.
- Continued raising funds for a planned outdoor basketball court to be built on the Tamkaliks Powwow Grounds in Wallowa, OR.
- Organized the 2018 Nez Perce Summer Education Trail Tour from August 3-9, 2018, which started in Yellowstone National Park and traversed the Nez Perce War of 1877 route that concluded at the Bear Paw, MT battle site. Educators learned about the 1877 war and flight and developed lesson plans to take back to their classrooms. Tour leaders held evening itinerary discussions and spent time reviewing required reading.
- Proposed a 2019 Nez Perce Memorial Monument at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, honoring the Nez Perce survivors who were incarcerated at Ft. Leavenworth following the surrender at Bear Paw, MT, and a Nez Perce Memorial Site at Riparia, WA, recognizing the Joseph's Band route to Nespelem.



Photo Credit: NPTF

Protection

- Developed cooperative partnerships with The Trust for Public Land's Northern Rockies team for preservation of the Lolo Trail and with Adventure Cycling for Nez Perce history inclusion on relevant State Perce history inclusion on relevant State cycling maps.

Capacity

- Board continues to pursue avenues of fundraising, grant opportunities, and community outreach, as well as increasing social media and website activity.

Decade Goal 3: Capacity Building

Capacity building is closely tied to the goals of Outreach and Protection. This goal is about providing the underlying resources and systems needed to make public visibility and engagement and conservation of land and heritage possible. While projects directly related to the first two goals are typically viewed as priorities, taking the time to build the organizational infrastructure, establish strong volunteer programs, and develop critical partnerships and funding strategies makes those very projects possible.

Capacity building intertwines people, systems, and partnerships. Developing a volunteer recruitment program brings in manpower, and establishing a clear systematic approach to recording those increased volunteer hours in turn allows for attracting potential funding partners by demonstrating the value of the time volunteers are contributing.

Capacity building may come through hiring new staff, teaming up with a local university for credit internships, combining forces with like-minded organizations, or instituting a clear donor outreach program. It may double as outreach through marketing initiatives and media events to garner public support. Capacity building also impacts core organizational development through board member trainings and long-term growth strategy development, providing a strong foundation for pursuing the goals of each organization and the National Trails System as a whole.



Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

Outreach

- Developed a new website and brochure program. The website makes it easier for volunteers to report their hours, mileage, and unreimbursed expenses, and also incorporates interactive trail maps of the Cherokee Trail in Colorado and the Southern Routes. The 68,000 printed brochures have been distributed in trail States from Missouri to the West Coast, and the online version has been viewed over 24,000 times.
- Expanded and improved its online offerings, including launching a new Utah Crossroads Chapter, building a new website with interactive maps and digitized diaries of emigrants for its Gateway Chapter in St. Joseph, MO, and planning for a new Trails Head Chapter website in the Kansas City area.
- Partnered with the National Park Service and American Solar Challenge to stage a unique “race” along various branches of the Oregon Trail, from Omaha, NE to Bend, OR. Dozens of universities the world over built space-age vehicles powered only by the sun to traverse the 2,000 miles, with events held at each checkpoint that introduced OCTA to new audiences.
- Held a Southern Trails Symposium in Gila Bend, AZ, with about 125 people attending to learn about another route to California that OCTA is working to make a national historic trail.
- Held OCTA’s 36th annual convention in Ogden, UT, with over 300 people attending to learn about topics including the California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express NHTs, local American Indian tribes, fur trade, and transcontinental railroad.
- Completed a weeklong charette in St. Joseph, MO, led by OCTA’s NPS partners, to work with the community to better highlight the California and Pony Express NHTs, help create more heritage tourism opportunities, and plan for the future of development along OCTA’s trails in the area.
- Greeted the 80-foot U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, harvested from Oregon’s Willamette National Forest, in various trail cities from Oregon to Missouri enroute to Washington, D.C.
- Multiple State Governor Proclamations (Missouri, Kansas, and Oregon) encouraged people to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail.



Photo Credit: Amanda Gibbs

Protection

- Contributed \$20,000 toward legal fees in an effort to keep the Boardman to Hemingway powerline project in Idaho and Oregon off the Oregon Trail. Rerouting the powerline project at Sutherland, NE is also on OCTA’s agenda, as it would cross well-preserved parts of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express NHTs.

Capacity

- Attended the National Council on Social Studies Conference in Chicago, IL, where OCTA shared its primary source documents and curriculum found on its websites with thousands of educators from around the country and garnered a dozen new memberships.



Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA)



Photo Credit: RG Absher, OVTA

Outreach

- OVTA, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), provided programming for 50,000 members of the public in 2018 along the 330 mile trail corridor. Of those, approximately 75 percent were school students. The trail corridor passes through the four State region of Southwest Virginia, East Tennessee, Western North Carolina and Northern South Carolina, which is considered to have a large percentage of underserved population.
- Held major annual interpretive outreach efforts, including the Annual March to Kings Mountain (from mid-September to mid-October) and year-round programming, which are supported by funding with an NPS Cooperative Agreement, National Park Foundation funding and through OVTA volunteers.
- NPS partnered with three certified sites to develop new informational and interpretive panels and installed them along the trail.

Protection

- NPS hosted its second Youth Conservation Corps program for the Overmountain Victory NHT, with a crew of four youth and one crew leader. The crew maintained over ten miles of trail, rerouted two miles for better sustainability, and constructed two footbridges over drainages.
- NPS developed a complete inventory of all certified trail segments and constructed trail segments to help managers understand the landowner status of segments across the trail corridor.

Capacity

- NPS hired an intern for a four-month term through a grant from PNTS. The intern assisted NPS and OVTA during the Annual March programs, and set up the materials for a mobile app for the trail.
- NPS hired a consultant to speak with the NPS and the OVTA on techniques to help partners grow in capacity, develop a stronger board, and achieve better mission-oriented results.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



National Pony Express Association (NPEA)



Outreach

- NPEA conducted its Annual Re-Ride of the Pony Express Trail from Old Sacramento, CA to St. Joseph, MO in June 2018. The re-ride took ten days to complete traveling by horseback 24 hours a day. About 900 riders and horses from all eight state divisions of the organization carried commemorative letters.
- Nevada Division members Sally Taylor, Petra Keller, and Jim De Glopper attended the 95th birthday meeting of the Reno, NV Sagebrush Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and provided an hour-long presentation on the Pony Express Trail. The presentation included history of the Pony Express, information and pictures of present day re-rides, a virtual tour of the NPEA website, and a mochila on display.
- Colorado Division member August Bjorklun displayed his collection of Pony Express memorabilia at the Fleming Public Library in Fleming, CO and provided trail history.
- Kansas Division member Arleta Martin worked on a signage project between Marysville, KS and the Nebraska border. She researched and provided the route on local plat maps to the NPS, who then designed the signs and advised where they should be placed. The signs in Marshall County were erected by Marysville and Logan Township personnel.



Photo Credit: NPEA

Protection

- Colorado Division hosted 30 members of Eagle Scout Troop 260 from Castle Rock, CO, along with the troop leader and three other sponsors who cleaned and polished the 15-foot-tall Pony Express statue at the Colorado Visitor's Center in preparation of the re-ride. The troop was led on a hike by Colorado Division President Linda Dolezal and given a demonstration.
- California Division partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and Backcountry Horsemen of California on two projects to improve public access and trail maintenance on the Pony Express Trail. The first project was to restore and enlarge the XP Corral Trailhead to allow overnight staging of work parties and provide trail access for the general public. Boy Scout Troop 186 of Elk Grove, CA helped with the finish work by installing cobblestones to prevent erosion in critical areas around the site and also agreed to adopt 12 miles of the trail for spring pruning and fall culvert cleaning. The second project was to reopen a four mile section of the trail that was closed due to the total destruction of a bridge during the winter of 2016.

Capacity

- Updating the NPEA's current strategic plan.



Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA)



Outreach

- SFTA chapters installed new interpretive wayside exhibits at trail related sites in their areas.
- Completed signage showing where the Santa Fe NHT crossed current roadways in Osage, Wabaunsee, Lyon, and Morris counties in eastern Kansas.
- Began work on four interpretive wayside exhibits to be placed at the Little Arkansas River Complex, including the sites at Fry's Ruts, Stone Corral, Swanson's Swales, and Camp Grierson.
- Printed the remaining two booklets in the four-booklet Jr. Wagon Master educational program designed for school-age children to explore the trail.
- Held three events to observe the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, including: a two-day event in Council Grove, KS with speakers, historical site tours, Kaw dancers, reenactment of "mail-drop" by stagecoach, and special geocaching event; a three-day event in Larned, KS with speakers on the topic of "Death on the Santa Fe Trail;" and a two-day event in Elkhart, KS, Boise City, OK, and Clayton, NM including tours to trail sites on private property.

Capacity

- Reviewed the 2013-2023 strategic plan to determine how SFTA is progressing.
- Initiated a new fundraising campaign.
- Held geocaching events at trail events to increase Santa Fe NHT awareness and organizational membership in a new demographic.
- Applied for and received a grant from the National Park Foundation, as well as an additional Love Your Park pilot project funding. This project increased SFTA's partnerships and volunteer base.
- Recognized Ross Marshall for his many years of volunteer service to the SFTA and PNTS with the SFTA Gregory Franzwa Lifetime Achievement Award.



Photo Credit: SFTA

Selma to Montgomery NHT

Outreach

- The Selma to Montgomery NHT hosted a Junior Ranger Summer Camp. Activities included learning what a Freedom Song is and how the songs affected the people of the Voting Rights Movement. Kids learned about careers in NPS and Adventures in Camping, created "What Does Freedom Mean to You?" crafts, and wrote their own Freedom Songs by changing the lyrics to a gospel song just as voting rights demonstrators did in the 1960s.



Star-Spangled Banner NHT

Outreach

- Friends of Fort McHenry hosted special kayak excursions and walking wetland tours, along with talks about the Star-Spangled Banner NHT at a special "Fort McHenry celebrates the National Trails System" event.
- In partnership with the Living Classrooms Foundation, fourth and fifth grade students from Francis Scott Key Elementary took a maritime voyage to learn about the Star-Spangled Banner NHT. This hands-on program focused on the War of 1812 to help students understand their local history.



Photo Credit: Living Classrooms Foundation



Trail of Tears Association (TOTA)



Outreach

- Created a full length documentary about the Trail of Tears in Missouri for airing on PBS channels with funding from the Missouri Humanities Council.
- Created a Trail of Tears walking tour brochure featuring witness structures and sites on the Tennessee River in Decatur, AL, funded by the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area under the guidance of the Alabama Chapter.
- Attracted large audiences to two symposiums for lectures about the removal on college campuses. The North Carolina Chapter teamed with the University of Western Carolina and the Tennessee Chapter teamed with Cleveland Community College to bring information and stories about the removal to students and the general public.
- Completed sign plans on the Trail of Tears northern route through Missouri and gained approval for signage on all county roads in the seven counties with Trail of Tears NHT routes.



Photo Credit: Missouri Humanities Council

Capacity

- Updated website made electronic registration possible for the Annual Conference and Symposium, and half of the registrations were processed in this manner. Updates have been geared toward attracting students and recent graduates, and about 25 percent of membership renewals are now received electronically.
- TOTA and the University of North Alabama, through the efforts of the Association's Strategic Planning Committee for Education, have agreed to put in place a Memorandum of Understanding whereby the University will be the clearing house and coordinator for implementation and continual updating of a comprehensive Trail of Tears curriculum for classroom teachers accessible via TOTA's website.



National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US)



Outreach

- Completed a Lecture to Web program that enabled a historian to lecture to 12 different groups, after which he reworked the lectures to text with images to be posted on the website.
- Completed signage texts for a segment of the trail in New Jersey.
- Added a French translation feature to the website.
- Worked with Fort Mifflin to develop a plan for effective marketing and distribution of Pennsylvania unigrd maps.
- Placed 60 directional signs on trail related sites throughout the nine State and Washington, D.C. trail.
- Secured passport stampers for sites along the trail.
- Reinstated monthly conference calls with representatives in each State and D.C.

Capacity

- Secured GuideStar Platinum rating.
- Completed full migration to QuickBooks.
- Developed a board-only website and organizational archive to house all important corporate records, grants, and contracts so that no information is lost in the transition to new officers every two years.
- Formalized terms and conditions to further professionalize contracting with professional service providers.
- Completed an online archive of the past 20 years of the organization's work.
- Organized a mailing list in preparation for an online newsletter.
- Participated in the Long Range Interpretive Plan to be completed in 2019.
- Organized a contact list for a Trail Access and Development Study, also to be completed in 2019, and a board task force to update the bylaws.
- Welcomed Steven Sims as trail Superintendent in October 2018, and began a realignment process to enhance the effectiveness of the partnership.
- Awarded a 2018 Task Agreement to provide a contracted Executive Director, a part-time Digital Media Services person, and to cover the costs of accounting services and supplies.



Photo Credit: Kevin Vincent

FEDERAL PARTNERS

**Due to the partial government shutdown, several of our Federal agency partners were unable to submit their highlights. They will be posted on our website upon their submittal.*

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides stewardship over the construction, maintenance, and preservation of the nation's highways, bridges, and tunnels. FHWA also conducts research and provides technical assistance to State and local agencies to improve safety, mobility, and livability, and to encourage innovation.

Some national scenic and historic trail projects may be eligible for Federal-aid highway funds, especially under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside and the Recreational Trails Program. Both programs provide funds to the States; the States solicit and select projects for funding. For information, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment.

Among FHWA actions in 2018 that directly benefit national scenic and historic trails:

- Signed an interagency agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for National Scenic and Historic Trails Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring Program Development, which Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments and private sector entities can use to protect trail corridors. These resources will support more effective program management, project delivery, and build capacity to better administer, manage, and sustain national scenic and historic trails.
- Signed a cooperative agreement with the Partnership for the National Trails System for National Trails System Information, Corridor Protection, and Training to build capacity to better administer, manage, and sustain national scenic and historic trails.

Among FHWA actions in 2018 that also will benefit national trails:

- Signed a cooperative agreement with The Corps Network (TCN) to support Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development. TCN will develop resources to help encourage States to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth service or conservation corps to perform appropriate projects, including pedestrian and bicycle projects and recreational trail projects.
- Supported the National Park Service to develop the NPS Active Transportation Guidebook. The guidebook helps parks and partners identify opportunities for active transportation, and introduce a variety of policies, programs, and types of infrastructure to support and promote the use of active transportation.

FHWA published three documents that will provide information to improve project delivery. National trails interests can use these documents for examples and strategies to move projects forward.

- Case Studies in Realizing Co-Benefits of Multimodal Roadway Design and Green Infrastructure provides information to encourage agencies interested in making improvements to their pedestrian and bicycle networks that also provide green infrastructure and resiliency benefits.
- The Guidebook for Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity focuses on measuring pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity and incorporating connectivity analysis into the transportation planning process.
- Strategies for Accelerating Multimodal Project Delivery identifies strategies and techniques for accelerating multimodal project delivery. It highlights proven techniques that agencies are using to get high quality results, and opportunities to address barriers or delays in the project delivery process.



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Gold Sheet

Compiled by the Partnership for the National Trails System, the annual "Gold Sheet" report summarizes the private dollars donated and hours of volunteer time contributed to build, interpret, and sustain the 30 national scenic and historic trails. In 2018, the nonprofit trail partners contributed nearly one million volunteer hours worth over \$24,000,000 toward the stewardship of our nation's public lands, ecosystems, and cultural heritage.



View and download the annual Gold Sheet: www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/



WE'VE MOVED!

Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
 304 E. Wilson St. Lower Level
 Madison, WI 53703

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Event Calendar



www.pnts.org/new/events/

February 9-14, 2019	Hike the Hill presented by PNTS and AHS	Washington, D.C.	www.pnts.org/ new/our-work/ hike-the-hill/
March 15-17, 2019	Oregon-California Trail Association Spring Symposium	Independence, MO	www. octa-trails.org
March 17-23, 2019	Professional Trail Builders Sustainable Trails Conference	Grand Junction, CO	www. trailbuilders. silkstart.com
April 11-14, 2019	Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference and Meeting	Baraboo, WI	www. iceagetrail.org
April 28-May 1, 2019	24th International Trails Symposium and Training Institute	Syracuse, NY	www.american trails.org/ symposium/
May 2-5, 2019	North Country Trail Association Celebration	Bellaire, MI	www.ncta celebration.org

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