

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



Pathways

Across America

FALL 2020

CREATING SPACE

Latinx hikers cofounder shares the importance of changing outdoor representation and narratives

NEW PNTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ESTABLISHES OFFICE IN D.C.

FLORIDA TRAIL REROUTE APPROVED • GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT PASSES
GEOTOURISM ELEVATES HISTORIC TRAIL • VIRTUAL FALL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

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 four 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)

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.

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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 50 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 28,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- www.americantrails.org

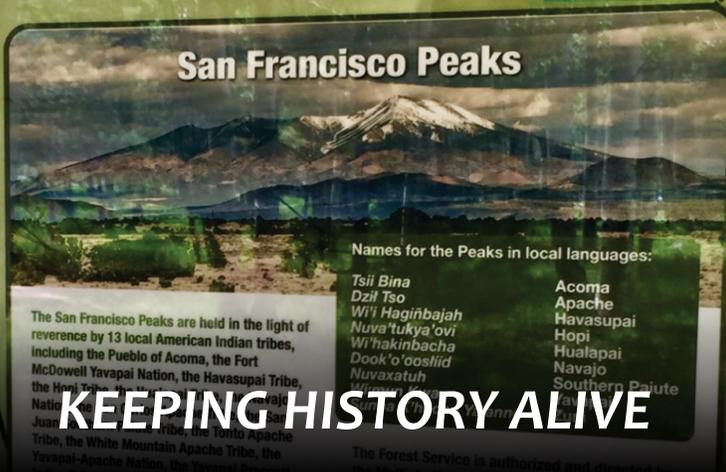
RAIL TRAILS

- 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, including 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 several modes of travel designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many NHTs have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they also 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

Florida Trail Association (FTA) volunteers Hannah Plate and Preston James pass through a mixed pine forest and oak hammock during a volunteer work party in September 2019. The FTA hosted this trail maintenance event in partnership with REI on the Western Corridor of the Florida National Scenic Trail in Ocala National Forest in honor of National Public Lands Day. Photo Credit: Van Tran, FTA

INSIDE

Left: Hikers along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail on the Waikapuna property by the coast. Photo Credit: Nahaku Kalei
 Center: The first interpretive sign on the Coconino National Forest that includes an Indigenous perspective. Photo Credit: Arizona Trail Association
 Right: Prairie restoration along the Ice Age Trail. Photo Credit: Gary Werner

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View more photos and full versions of each article:
www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/

The Partnership is now anchored in Washington, D.C.

Greetings!
It is an honor for me to write my first message for *Pathways Across America* as the Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). This issue of *Pathways* marks an important milestone as the first issue published from the new PNTS headquarters.

PNTS realized its long-envisioned goal of relocation to Washington, D.C. on September 1, 2020. We are now anchored in our nation's capital, providing us with more convenient access to partner agencies, decision-makers, and peer organizations. This move is logistically and symbolically important, and one that many Partnership stakeholders have worked hard to achieve.

Over the last several months, people across the U.S. have been turning to public lands and natural areas near and far in record numbers for recreation, respite, discovery, and as places to safely socialize during a pandemic. This attention upon public lands provides us with an opportunity to shine a light on the importance of our National Trails System, to more deeply engage with partners, allies, and advocates, and to welcome new trail users.

Simultaneously, our elected officials acknowledged the extraordinary value of our precious public lands with the recent signing of the Great American Outdoors Act. At this time of tremendous opportunity, PNTS is poised to work with its members, partners, friends, and emerging stakeholders to advance the interests of the National Trails System and trail organizations as we seek to realize our



Photo Credit: Deloris Gray Wood

The U.S. Capitol is just a couple miles away from the Partnership's new office in Washington, D.C.

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

As PNTS enjoys a fortuitous and exciting time, I'd like to acknowledge several remarkable individuals who provided critical leadership over the last several months. Karen Crossley, Interim Executive Director, skillfully steered the organization through complex challenges, most notably taking the reins following PNTS founder Gary Werner's retirement and managing the logistics of the PNTS move from Madison, WI to Washington, D.C. Kathy DeCoster, Interim Advocacy and Policy Director, brought together and elevated the voices of the PNTS community at a key time leading up to the passage of the

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

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Great American Outdoors Act. In addition, core team members, Samantha Haas and Liz Wessel, stepped up to advance PNTS' programs and services during the recent highly unusual period of transition. Their collective dedication and work will have lasting impacts upon PNTS. I hope you will join me in thanking them for sharing their talents, and in wishing Karen and Kathy well on their next adventures.

While I am just beginning my tenure with PNTS, I'm impressed and invigorated by the committed members of the PNTS community I've had the privilege to meet to date. It is evident to me that the National Trails System continues to grow and thrive because of the talented and passionate people supporting it. I look forward to getting to know many more of you in the coming weeks and months as PNTS moves into this exciting new chapter of the organization's story and settles into its new headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Yours in partnership,



Contact PNTS Executive Director Valerie Rupp:
valerie@pnts.org (443) 961-1150

Trails Community Resources



www.pnts.org/new/resources/

COVID-19 UPDATES

Since March, PNTS has been compiling national scenic and historic trail organization responses, guidelines, policies, event cancellations, related news articles, and resources.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Since June, PNTS has been compiling tools for allies, recent statements, and points of view to help us all become more aware, informed, and better equipped to take action. Please join us.

FORUM

PNTS launched its National Trails System Forum in 2017. The purpose of this forum is to encourage dialogue and the sharing of best practices amongst trail partners. Log in today!

WEBINARS

Since March, this page has also included dozens of additional webinars hosted by other organizations that focus on COVID-19, equity, and trail-related topics. Some are recorded.

If you would like something shared to these pages, please email Samantha Haas, PNTS Communications Coordinator, at communication@pnts.org.

Valerie Rupp named PNTS Executive Director

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has appointed Valerie C. Rupp of Baltimore, MD, to serve as the new Executive Director for the organization which represents 30 national scenic and historic trails.



Valerie Rupp

Valerie most recently held a position as Corporate and Foundation Stewardship Director for Baltimore's People & Parks Foundation. In nine years with the organization, she served in progressively more responsible positions, including Director of Community Greening and Community Grants Program Director.

She has focused on creative initiatives that catalyze neighborhood revitalization through forestry, green infrastructure, park and trail creation, and other projects. She has been leading an effort with the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks to develop its new partnership model to better support park stewardship and advocacy.

Valerie assumed the position of PNTS Executive Director effective August 17, 2020. She succeeded Gary Werner, who retired in February after nearly 30 years in the role, and Interim Executive Director Karen Crossley, who has served since Gary's departure. Valerie also established the Partnership's new offices in Washington, D.C. on September 1, 2020. Valerie was the unanimous choice of a Partnership search committee and the recommendation was approved by the PNTS Board of Directors.

"We believe that Ms. Rupp is an ideal fit for the organization," said PNTS President Barney Scout Mann. "She has significant fundraising and administrative experience that will allow her to effectively address two significant and immediate needs of the Partnership. In addition, she brings promising skills and enthusiasm for increased community involvement and diversity within the Partnership and the greater trails community. She is experienced and passionate about working with diverse and underserved populations to make parks and trails accessible to all and to foster real community ownership."

"I am excited about the opportunity to work with so many trail leaders in furthering the work of the trails community across the nation," Valerie said. "It is a unique and interesting time for PNTS, with great opportunities to take intentional steps to achieve ambitious goals for some incredible organizations. I feel confident that my strategic and collaborative approach to leadership, my ability to raise and diversify funds and manage partnerships, and my experience in inclusive community engagement and communications will allow me to elevate the profile

and impact of PNTS."

Her hiring followed an 18-month search headed by a specially appointed Executive Director Transition Task Force chaired by Liz Bergeron, a former PNTS President and Executive Director and CEO of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). Other members of the task force included Christy Corzine, a former PNTS Board member and former PCTA Board member; Bill Martin, a member of the PNTS Trail Leaders Council (TLC) and past president of the Oregon-California Trails Association; Elizabeth Stewart, former PNTS Board and TLC representative for the Anza Trail Foundation; and Mike Wollmer, a PNTS Board member and TLC representative and Executive Director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Barney Mann served as an ex officio member.

Valerie holds twin Bachelor's degrees in history and communications from Shippensburg University and a Master's in public administration from the University of Baltimore, where she was selected the top graduate student for academic achievement and civic leadership. She also earned a Certificate in Volunteer Management from Carroll County Community College.

Prior to joining the Parks & People Foundation, she served as Development Director for the Women's Law Center of Maryland, as Development Associate for the Baltimore Museum of Industry, and Volunteer Coordinator for Volunteer Maryland, an AmeriCorps program. Valerie received a Governor's Citation for mobilizing thousands of community volunteers through Volunteer Maryland.

At the Women's Law Center, Valerie led marketing and communications including publications, and launched an organizational rebranding campaign while creating a fundraising culture. During her tenure at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, she increased major gifts to the annual fund by 300% and managed booking, scheduling, and staffing for 90,000 school visitors each year.

While at Parks & People, Valerie has led programs and projects with total annual budgets of \$3 million and managed a staff of eight. She also secured more than \$3 million in private and public grants and contracts and developed public and private partnerships to enhance diversity, inclusivity, and environmental justice in Baltimore. Valerie has experience in managing promotions and events, working with a variety of committees and teams, facilitating public stakeholder groups both for and with local and Federal government, and developing and managing high-level projects and initiatives. She is frequently recruited as a collaborator or an investigator focused on partnership and engagement strategies for grant-funded, research projects led by premier universities and Federal agencies.

Please join the Partnership in welcoming Valerie!



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.



GOALS

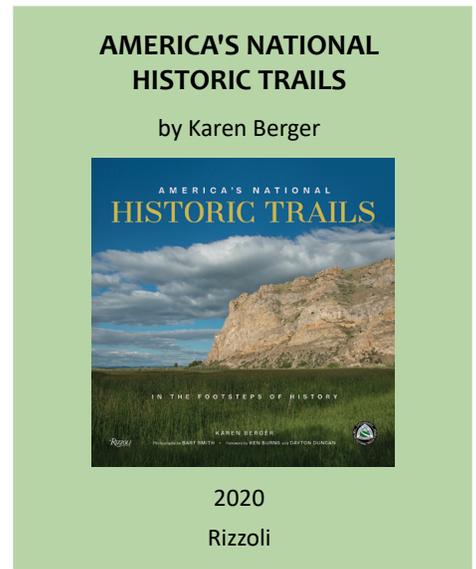
1. Outreach and public awareness
2. Resource protection and trail completion
3. Capacity building

Historic trails featured in new book

From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the trails blazed by the pioneers, lands explored by Lewis and Clark and covered by the Pony Express to the civil rights marches of Selma and Montgomery, “America’s National Historic Trails: In the Footsteps of History” is now available and is a gift that celebrates the 19 trails that make up this system.

These trails range from 54 miles to more than 5,000 and feature historic and interpretive sites to be explored on foot and sometimes by paddle, sail, bicycle, horse, or car on backcountry roads. Totalling more than 37,000 miles through 42 States, our entire national experience comes to life on these trails—from American Indian history to the settlement of the colonies, westward expansion, and civil rights—and they are beautifully depicted in this large-format volume with photography by Bart Smith, the first person to walk all 11 national scenic trails and 19 national historic trails—more than 35,000 miles of America’s landscape.

As author Karen Berger writes in her introduction, “All of (the trails) offer opportunities to experience the varied environments that have played a role in the American narrative. But even more, these trails place us at the intersection of story and landscape. When we touch the wooden walls of a frontier fort, step in the ruts of wagon wheels, look down at a river from a bridge that wasn’t there a hundred years ago, or consider what it would be like to walk, ride a horse, drive a wagon, or march in military formation over an expanse of land, we understand the past in a physical, visceral way. Our forebears passed through these lands for many different reasons: for freedom, for a king, for God, for a protest, for economic opportunity, for adventure, for war. We all have our reasons, both then and now. The national historic trails give us points of intersection across time and distance—a way to connect ourselves to those who came before through our common humanity and our experience of the land.”



Berger is also the author of 18 other books on hiking, including “America’s Great Hiking Trails” and “Great Hiking Trails of the World.” She has also hiked more than 18,000 miles all over the world—including thru-hikes of the Triple Crown trails (the Appalachian, Pacific Crest, and Continental Divide National Scenic Trails). A portion of proceeds from book sales will help support the work of the Partnership for the National Trails System.

JOIN US ONLINE FOR THIS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
www.pnts.org/new/virtual-workshop-october-2020/



National Trails Virtual Workshop

October 21-29, 2020

THEMES

- *Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*
- *Expanding Partnerships Within and Beyond Trail Corridors*
- *Increasing Capacity Through Organizational Development*

SCHEDULE

Sessions, presenter bios, FAQs, and more!

REGISTRATION

\$75 Standard / \$25 Student or limited income

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the following organizations, businesses, and agencies that have made the Virtual Fall Workshop possible: Overmountain Victory Trail Association (Host); PNTS Fall Workshop Committee (Planning Team); Western Washington University (Technical Support); Federal Highway Administration, National Park Foundation, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service (Sponsors).

Join us at the Virtual Fall Workshop

We would like to welcome you to join us at the National Trails Virtual Fall Workshop! These are indeed challenging times along our National Trails System. With the continuing COVID-19 health crisis, so many schedules, activities, trail events, and trail projects have been placed on hold and altered to accommodate the safety and concern for trail workers, volunteers, and trail enthusiasts nationwide.

In addition, we are at a time when issues relating to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) have come into sharp focus, causing us to reevaluate our work and daily lives. The Partnership for the National Trails System's recent Statement of Inclusion and Statement of Solidarity have pointed to the need for the Partnership to put into action our commitment to making trail opportunities welcoming and available to people of all backgrounds. We acknowledge this is one step among many we have yet to take, but we are prioritizing these JEDI issues by giving them a central focus at the Fall Workshop.

We invite you to join us from October 21-29, 2020, as we explore these three workshop themes: Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion;

Expanding Partnerships Within and Beyond Trail Corridors; and Increasing Capacity Through Organizational Development.

During the workshop, we will also meet the new PNTS Executive Director Valerie Rupp!

The PNTS Fall Workshop Planning Committee and Workshop and Conferences Committee have been working together to make this a lively and compelling workshop. We are adjusting the format and presentations to include interactive and compelling lessons learned sessions. Our goal has been to provide some takeaways and concepts that you can apply at your trail system at the regional and national levels.

By using a virtual format and reducing the registration fees (\$75 for standard registration or \$25 for student or limited income), we are looking forward to having an opportunity to engage more people. Please register today and continue to share this workshop information. We hope that the workshop will be a gateway to working with a broader array of partners from a diverse set of backgrounds, welcoming new ideas and approaches to our trails and community work. We look forward to seeing you virtually in October!

What to expect as a workshop attendee

The Partnership for the National Trails System hopes that you will find many opportunities to grow your skills and broaden your thinking during the National Trails Virtual Fall Workshop from October 21-29, 2020.

The workshop will spend a day working through some principles and practices that will help individuals and organizations recognize their limitations when it comes to engaging with people of color and other marginalized populations. We hope that these themes, ideas, and practices will carry over as we explore how to expand partnerships within and beyond trail corridors.

As we assess our strengths and weaknesses, we will appreciate that each organization and individual brings certain skills and knowledge to their trail work. By engaging with a broader and more diverse group of individuals and organizations, we aim for the National Trails System to become more welcoming to populations that have been marginalized in our work to date.

And we will find that increasing capacity can be enhanced and expanded as we learn how to welcome and empower marginalized communities. Whether it is fundraising, interpretation and communication, volunteer recruitment, or building new campaigns, we need to apply the lens of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in both our language and our actions.

We have encouraged presenters to engage you, so please come prepared with any prework or readings they may suggest for you to complete in advance. We also will make available to you take-home tools and resources for the various sessions and topics to apply the session's information in your work. We hope to see you there!

Workshop Sessions



www.pnts.org/new/virtual-workshop-october-2020/

Please check the website for any schedule changes including presenters and times. You must register to receive the Zoom link for any or all sessions you plan to attend. With a few exceptions, sessions will generally go from 12-6 p.m. Eastern with breaks in between. Sessions may include prework, such as videos and suggested readings.

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- Opening session and keynote speaker

DAY 2: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Principles and Practices: Community Agreements
- Moving Forward Through Teachable Moments (Members only)
- JEDI Best Practices as Developed by the PNTS JEDI Workgroup

DAY 3: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

- Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Panel
- The Fight for Rappahannock Tribal Recognition and the Protection of Fones Cliffs on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Interpreting the Stories of the Silent Voices: Acknowledging the Lives of the Oppressed and Marginalized in Your Historic Trail Interpretation

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

- An Introduction to Protecting Trails: A Handbook for Land Acquisition for National Scenic and Historic Trails
- How to Inventory/Assess and Monitor National Scenic and Historic Trails: Bureau of Land Management's New Training Effort

- Documenting the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

DAY 5: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- Working with Land Trusts and Partners Outside the Trail Community to Save National Trails
- Great American Outdoors Act, Part I: Lessons Learned and How to Use Them to "Win the Win"
- Great American Outdoors Act, Part II: A National Trails Campaign

DAY 6: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

- Fundraising During a Pandemic
- Next Generation Alumni Panel

DAY 7: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

- Utilizing Zoom and Other Tech Tools to Promote the National Trails
- Optimizing Your Video Projects: A Moderated Discussion
- Closing Session: What's Next for the National Trails

Building sustainable tourism

Public-private partnerships elevate historic trail experience through website

Pittsburgh to the Pacific Ocean. 16 States. 15 American Indian reservations. 4,900 miles. 200-plus years of United States history.

Community interconnectivity is vital to build sustainability along long-distance trails. For the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT), tourism has been used to achieve this connectedness and enhance community engagement.

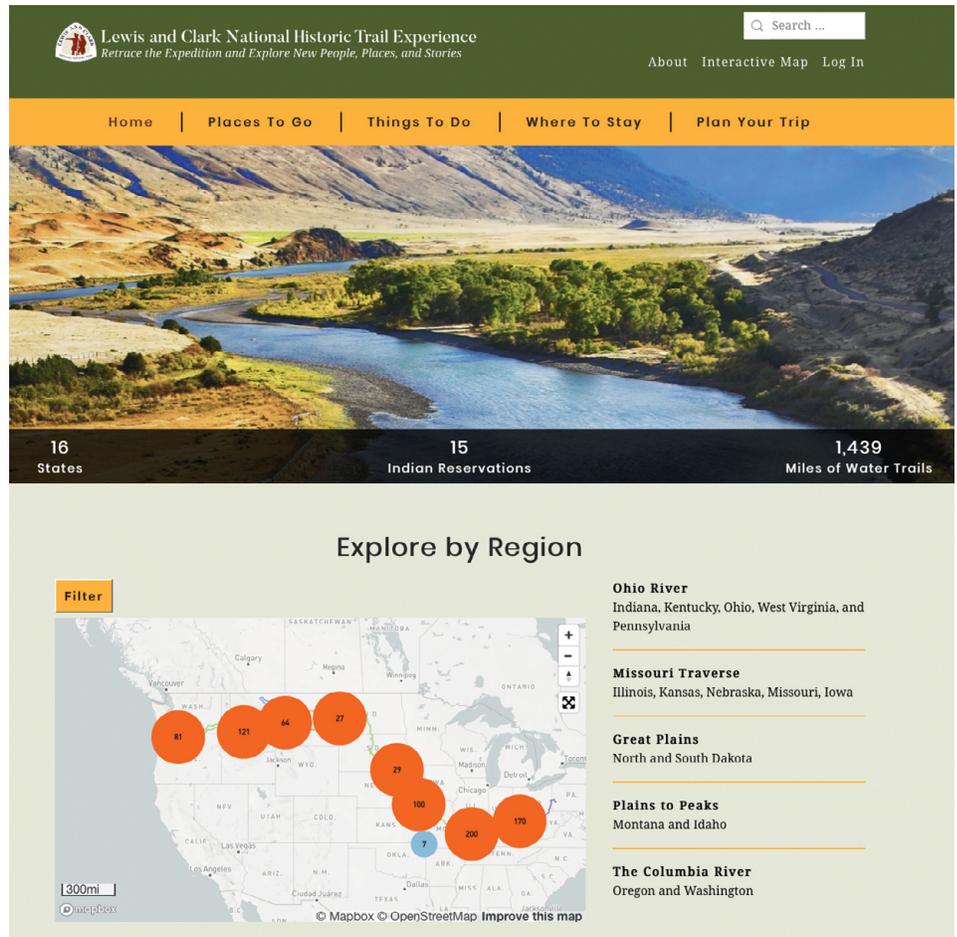
The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and follows some of America's main river arteries as it passes through dozens of counties. Unlike the national scenic trails that are centered around long-distance hiking, the LCNHT covers 6,157 miles of auto route and 1,439 miles of water trails. As such, the sustainability of the trail is heavily reliant on public and private partnerships. Federal land managers, State tourism offices, chambers of commerce, nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers all play a role in advocating and advancing the trail's mission.

Dan Wiley, the Senior Manager of Integrated Resources Stewardship at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, recognizes the value of the LCNHT in sustaining the history and culture of the Corps of Discovery. "The Purpose of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is to commemorate the 1803 to 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition through the identification; protection; interpretation; public use and enjoyment; and preservation of historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with the expedition and its place in U.S. and Tribal history," he said.

GEOTOURISM: SHAPING THE TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Data obtained from the NPS suggests that over 3.1 million people visited at least one point along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in 2017. These sites include Tribal museums, visitor centers and local, State, and Federal parks, not to mention the countless restaurants, hotels, and campsites situated along the trail. Despite an eclectic group of stakeholders and millions of visitors, the LCNHT was lacking a common thread that allowed destinations and stakeholders to share a common identity.

Enter Geotourism. Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of a place, its



environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. It encompasses a wide-range of cultural travel including heritage, history, food, nature, adventure, the outdoors, water, music, and the arts. In short, this methodology celebrates any aspect of culture that makes a destination unique.

Geotourism creates a link between the past and the present for communities along the trail, regardless of its place in history as it relates to the Corps of Discovery. Take two locales along the LCNHT, for example. Paducah, KY is located on the banks of the Ohio River and offers visitors phenomenal hiking trails and breweries serving up beer made with hops from nearby farms. Also, 600 miles northwest, in Omaha, NE, history buffs will find plaques signifying campsites where the Corps of Discovery spent time hunting and fishing over 200 years ago. Bringing these two individual visitor experiences together onto one platform is a prime example of how

Geotourism is being implemented along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Paducah is one of over 50 community partners of the LCNHT Experience. When asked about Paducah's partnership, Laura Oswald, Director of Marketing for the Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau, said, "The Paducah CVB recognizes the value of Geotourism for sustainable tourism impact in Paducah and as a connector among places along the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. When tourism effectively weaves together cultural heritage and contemporary experiences, the result is an augmented sense of place and visitor impact."

LOCAL, AUTHENTIC TOURISM: LCNHT AND BEYOND

The framework of Geotourism was founded by National Geographic in 2002, and since then several regions around the world have used this methodology to give

tourism leaders and stakeholders the chance to be the storytellers for their destination.

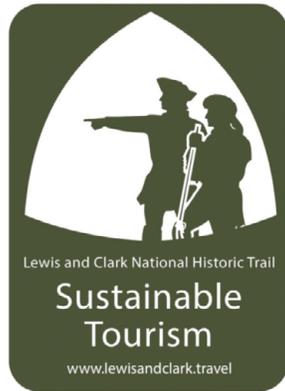
Numerous Geotourism programs have been developed in the U.S. and abroad. The Scenic Wild Delaware River, the Rocky Mountain Region around the U.S.-Canada border, and the Sedona Verde Valley all have incorporated Geotourism into their overall tourism landscape domestically, while overseas the European Atlantic Geotourism Route highlights Western Europe's local product offerings. Other similar programs can be seen around South Asia, as well as in Central and South America.

Still, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience is the first of its kind in that no other historic trail has used Geotourism to build community engagement and celebrate the future while honoring the past. Currently, the program's platform, Lewisandclark.travel, is live and is accepting nominations for communities, sites, attractions, and businesses to feature on its digital map guide. In the spring of 2021, the project will begin to be promoted to the traveling public in collaboration with the National Park Service and its community partners along the trail, including the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. and Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

In the meantime, the team at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will soon begin implementing a content and communications plan designed to educate partners that have already joined the program. Each month, a different topic will be explored via virtual seminars and expert interviews. Content pillars will be centered around the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, citizen science, and the restarting/reimagining of tourism—all with the overstory of achieving economic and cultural sustainability inside destinations along the trail. This strategy will also be hugely instrumental in creating rich stories and trip ideas that will ultimately enhance the visitor experience.

Virtually any trail (whether they are a national scenic or historic trail) that passes through numerous destinations or communities is well-positioned to adapt both Geotourism and this education-based tourism strategy. Though National Geographic no longer directly promotes this program nor their digital map guides, tourism consultancies like Solimar International are trained and have the experience necessary to garner community buy-in and build the online platform needed for methodology to succeed.

Nowadays, it is seemingly impossible to write an article with tourism as a main subject without mentioning COVID-19. As a result of the global pandemic, the tourism ecosphere has been flipped upside-down and has forced destinations and trails to reimagine tourism as visitors venture out once again. Now more than ever, localization and authenticity are vital to the sustainability of the industry as a whole. Through the power of storytelling and Geotourism, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience has found a way to commemorate the Corps of Discovery while celebrating and promoting the values and traditions of today's American communities.



Exploring the Scenic and Historic Features of Trails

ATLAS EXAMINES FULL SCALE OF TRAIL

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition recently announced the completion of the Atlas of the CDT, a collection of thematic maps, infographics, and writing that explores the history and context of the trail corridor and its regional setting. The Atlas examines the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in full monumental scale as a path that connects not only travelers but ecosystems and regional communities in a continuous landscape corridor along the backbone of the continent. This resource advances consideration of the trail beyond a narrow path to critical landscape conservation through detailed and fascinating maps.



 continentaldividetrail.org/atlas-of-the-cdt/

ARTWORK TELLS A BROADER STORY

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (WARO) has announced a partnership with Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution to highlight the lesser known stories of African Americans, Indigenous populations, women, and children and their contributions to the American Revolution. The partnership includes the commissioning of a painting by renowned American artist Don Troiani in an exhibition of Troiani's work at the museum in 2021.

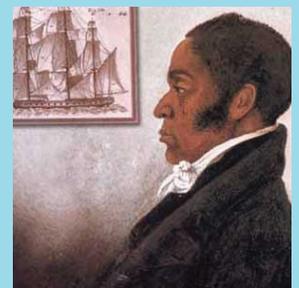


Photo Credit: *Portrait of James Forten*. Black Founders: The Free Black Community in the Early Republic. Library Company of Philadelphia.

The commission will depict James Forten (1766-1842), a free teenaged African-American Philadelphian who, in 1781, witnessed the march of American and French forces through the city on their way to Yorktown, VA. Forten's patriotism was particularly animated by the presence of companies of Black soldiers in the Rhode Island Regiment of the Continental Army. The commissioned painting will show Forten and a diverse cast of Philadelphians watching the march of Washington's Continental forces, specifically the ethnically diverse ranks of the Rhode Island Regiment, marching down Chestnut Street near Independence Hall. This commission depicts a critical moment in Forten's early life, when the promise of the Revolution motivated him to take up arms, despite the personal risks, including possible capture and enslavement. It will illuminate an early chapter in the life of a man who would become one of Philadelphia's most prominent citizens in the early 19th century, as well as a leading abolitionist. Forten was inspired by the belief that the founding ideals of freedom and equality applied to all Americans.

"This project aligns with the trail's mission to uncover and share compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events associated with the American Revolution," said WARO Trail Administrator Johnny Carawan. "Most importantly, it brings us closer to helping the public make personal connections to the Washington-Rochambeau Trail."



Learn more about the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Experience:

lewisandclark.travel

Great American Outdoors Act passes

Legislation fully and permanently funds LWCF, addresses maintenance backlog

The Partnership for the National Trails System is thrilled that the decades-long effort to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and address the backlog of maintenance and construction on our public lands has resulted in passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) with strong bipartisan support.

The President signed the Act into law on August 4, 2020, thus fully funding LWCF starting in Fiscal Year 2021 (which began October 1, 2020) and establishing an annual expenditure of dedicated funds to address deferred maintenance needs on Federal lands over a five-year timeframe, also starting in FY21.

The implementation clock started ticking immediately after enactment, beginning with a 90-day period during which the Federal agencies are expected to prepare and send to Congress specific project lists identifying how the first year of funding for both LWCF and deferred maintenance would be spent. The Partnership is engaged with our Federal agency partners on the GAOA implementation effort and will remain attentive to any developments as it moves forward in the coming months. Working with our member organizations and nonprofit partners, we want to make sure we identify opportunities through GAOA to further trail protection and improvements.

In the midst of an incredibly challenging time, Congress has taken a bold step to invest in communities and special places all across the nation for the benefit of people and the protection of our natural resources in ways that will endure for generations to come. It is gratifying to see that this issue has brought



people together rather than further divide us.

The Partnership is incredibly grateful to those who worked on this legislative effort for over 30 years and who worked so hard to get us to this day. Given how long we've been at it, the list of those we want to thank is pages long. In this moment, we especially want to acknowledge the GAOA's lead sponsors in the House—Reps. Joe Cunningham (SC-1) and Mike Simpson (ID-2), House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raul Grijalva (AZ-3)—and House leadership for moving the bill so quickly in July (310-107) following Senate passage in June (73-25). We also thank those who led action in the Senate—Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mark Warner (D-VA)—as well Senate leadership for making this important legislation a priority.

The National Trails System's congressionally designated 30 scenic and historic trails are a critical part of America's

impressive public lands and provide spectacular outdoor recreation and cultural experiences. There is at least one national trail in each of our 50 States. These 30 trails connect with 84 national parks, 89 national forests, 70 national wildlife refuges, over 100 BLM public land areas, 179 national wilderness areas, and more than 230 major urban areas and trail towns. Over the years, substantial funding from LWCF has helped build out the trail footpath, protect viewsheds, and conserve important historic and cultural resources that help tell this country's unique stories. Maintenance and construction funding have ensured that the trail experience is a positive one for millions of visitors each year. But there is much more to do to complete the length and breadth of the National Trails System as envisioned by Congress. We also recognize the importance of creating accessible, safe, and welcoming trail experiences for all users.

The Partnership and its member organizations look forward to working with our public agencies, local communities, and Congress to use GAOA funds to full effect along our scenic and historic trails, ensuring that the National Trails System remains a world-class public land resource for all people now and well into the future.



Learn how the Land and Water Conservation Fund has protected national scenic and historic trails by viewing this photo album:

[www.facebook.com/
PartnershipNTS/photos](https://www.facebook.com/PartnershipNTS/photos)

Acknowledging Cultural Resources Along the Arizona Trail

STEWARDS GUIDE TO CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) recently developed the Arizona Trail Steward Guide to Cultural Resources in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Arizona State Historic Preservation Office to give trail stewards information on what they may discover while doing routine maintenance since moving dirt is likely to reveal artifacts hidden below the surface. The guide details common artifacts they're likely to see and how to identify them, including flaked stone, ground stone, ceramics, and historic trash. It explains why it's important to leave what you find and how to properly document, protect, and report your findings.



aztrail.org/explore/trail-stewards/steward-resources/

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE ON SIGNS

The ATA recently designed and installed a new sign at Aspen Corner—a primary access point to the Arizona National Scenic Trail near Flagstaff, AZ. This sign is the first on the USFS-Coconino National Forest that includes an Indigenous perspective. ATA worked with the national forest and nine Tribes to get the native names of the culturally significant mountain peaks just right, and remind visitors they are visiting a sacred landscape.



[facebook.com/Arizona.Trail.Association/
posts/1015832602224383](https://facebook.com/Arizona.Trail.Association/posts/1015832602224383)

Just around the bend

Florida Trail 'Big Bend' reroute approved for implementation

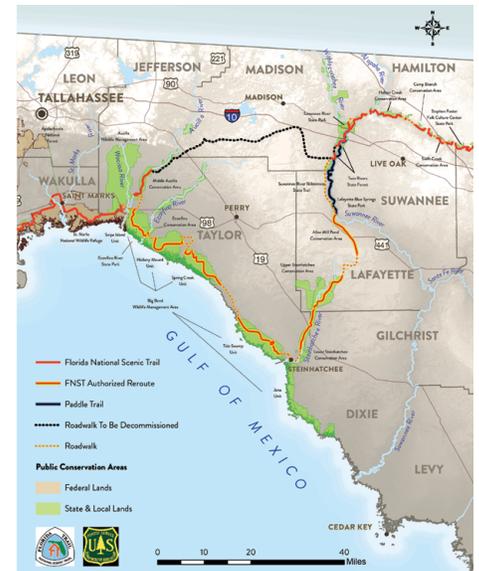


Photo Credit: Jan Wells

Above: Scenic Dallis Creek, one of many unique waterways highlighted along the Big Bend route, shown in October 2017.

Right: Florida National Scenic Trail Big Bend reroute map with alternative roadwalk.

Map Credit: USFS



Over 1,100 miles of the Florida Trail (FT) have been successfully certified, highlighting some of the most scenic and diverse natural areas found anywhere in the country. However, more than 300 miles of trail gaps remain in order to complete Florida's own National Scenic Trail. Over the past several years, the U.S. Forest Service's Florida National Scenic Trail Program has been working closely with partners from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida State Parks and the Office of Greenways and Trails, the Florida Forest Service, Taylor County, Four Rivers Land and Timber Company LLC, the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, and the Florida Trail Association to study and propose a solution to one of the largest gaps in the Florida Trail. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) convened a planning team to look at alternatives within the focus area that included State agencies and the Florida Trail Association (FTA).

A viable public land route for this 50-mile gap between Twin Rivers State Forest and the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area was identified by the planning team in 2016 but was slightly outside the 20 mile planning corridor as published in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan. This option has become known as the Big Bend Reroute and will route hikers through some of the most scenic and undeveloped coastal areas in Florida. Together with our Florida Trail Coalition partners we have been working to obtain the

necessary approvals for the Big Bend reroute over the course of several years.

I am happy to announce that the long-awaited routing decision has recently been approved and signed by the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Regional Forester. The USFS and our partners at the FTA have published print and digital articles over the past several years along with public surveys seeking public input on the proposed reroute. We received tremendous support from the public, FTA membership, and land managers alike so I would like to thank you for your patience while we worked through the approval process. The USFS will publish official mapping updates and, in partnership with land management agencies and the FTA, we will begin the implementation of the routing adjustment over the next several months. The implementation phase of the project is anticipated to take two or more field seasons to accomplish, and we will look for opportunities to close the remaining gaps within the new routing. Our partner collaborative will work on best interim routing in gap areas for long distance hikers during the realignment of the Big Bend reroute.

The Big Bend reroute will replace 50 miles of dangerous roadwalk with approximately 90 miles of trail along administrative roads within public land units, greatly increasing public safety by moving away from the road shoulder and enhancing opportunities for users to experience natural Florida. The reroute maximizes trail protection

and permanency in this region and better aligns with the nature and purposes of the Florida National Scenic Trail, as defined in the National Trails System Act. Showcasing a diversity of landscapes and highlighting remarkable water features along the way, the Big Bend reroute will be a destination for those looking for a truly unique Florida Trail experience. Hikers will have the opportunity to rest their feet and take advantage of a paddling connection along the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail while still maintaining course along their FT journey.

Connecting State forest lands, two State parks, and several State wildlife and water management units, hikers will enjoy world-class recreational and scenic opportunities, and the FT will gain permanent protection on publicly owned lands. The reroute promotes an exciting opportunity to engage new volunteers and establish a Gateway Community in the gulf coast town of Steinatchee, FL. The beloved, 13-mile Aucilla Wildlife Management Area segment will be retained as a designated spur trail of the FT as part of this routing improvement.



Learn more about the project from Adam Fryska, Panhandle Trail Program Manager, Florida Trail Association:

adamf@floridatrail.org

The new normal

Changing outdoor representation and narratives



Photo Credit: Christian Restrepo

Luz Lituma (front row, second from left) leads a group hike in Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area for a Latinxhikers event.

As cofounder of Latinxhikers, a community created to bring more diversity to trails, I am interested in addressing and changing the lack of diversity in outdoor recreation. Two major factors holding back progress are lack of access to public lands and lack of representation in the outdoor recreation industry. Julia Hartz, CEO of Eventbrite, once said, "If you can't see it, you can't be it," when speaking of women role models in the media. You must be able to see others who look like you to feel inspired and empowered. Representation matters. Representation is crucial.

Latinxhikers began as an Instagram account where cofounder Adriana Garcia and I would share personal experiences of being out on the trails. We wanted to create a space where we could share our stories as two Latinx women and provide advice for other Latinxs to go outdoors. I wasn't always what one would typically consider "outdoorsy." I am a first-generation daughter of two immigrants from Ecuador. Leisure time and family vacations were few and far between for us. This meant our vacations were usually staycations and we'd do pig roasts at the lake or throw big outside parties with a lot of food. This was our way of being outdoorsy, and a lot of the Latinx community resonates with that version.

It wasn't until 2016—after I unexpectedly

summitted Vinicunca, Rainbow Mountain in Peru, a 17,000-foot mountain—that I started hiking. I say unexpected because I honestly didn't know what I was signing up for. The guide told us to "just wear comfortable shoes." It was one of the hardest hikes I've ever done. After doing that, I felt like I could do anything. I switched up my way of travel and started visiting as many national parks as possible.

As the Latinxhikers community grew, so did our access to recreational opportunities. One of the best has been working with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Florida Trail Association (FTA) as a Latinx Partnership Coordinator. This position was created almost two years ago to bring more diversity to the outdoors and within environmental conservation organizations. My job is to create stewardship and volunteer opportunities for the Latinx community. But, my personal goal is to help people gain a greater appreciation for trails so we can establish a deeper connection to the lands and in return, create more lifelong stewards of these spaces.

CREATING AFFINITY SPACES

Creating affinity spaces is critical when introducing the Latinx community to the trails. It helps our community feel safe and welcomed in places that have historically oppressed many people of color. During the

COVID-19 pandemic, group gatherings—which is how we've engaged with outdoor spaces in the past—are out of the picture. With that in mind, I wanted to make sure people were still motivated to go outside and explore their own backyard. One way we've invited the community to participate was by hosting a virtual hike for Latino Conservation Week (LCW) in July. LCW was founded in 2014 by the Hispanic Access Foundation to encourage the Latinx community to access nature and build a connection to outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship. By engaging with the outdoors among a group with shared identities, one of LCW's goals is to change the shape and narrative of outdoor recreation and dissolve the barriers which have kept the Latinx community from building a relationship with the outdoors.

By hosting a virtual hike during LCW, I encouraged people to get on a trail in their area and become aware of who maintains the trails they're enjoying. I think there's a common misconception that people get paid to do this work. Not many people know that the trails they recreate on are maintained by people like us—volunteers who help maintain and protect the paths which everyone can walk on. My hope was to inspire others to volunteer with the conservation organizations in their area—when it's safe. The feedback and participation were tremendous. People



latinhikers.com

Latinhikers (which began as an online platform in 2017) is a community dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors through digital storytelling and community outreach.



wildestwomen.org

Wild East Women is an affinity group working under the umbrella of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (as an offshoot of the Wild East initiative) to support women in engaging with the trail in meaningful ways.

did their homework by finding out who maintains their trails!

Here's part of a post Kassandra Delgado, a fellow Latinhiker from California, shared on her Instagram: "To be honest, I'm always so eager to lace up my hiking boots and add another summit to my hiking resume that I never stop to think about who is maintaining these trails. In honor of LCW, I decided to do some digging and found out that volunteers from The Mountaineers paint, repair, and clean the lookout year after year so that hikers like us can continue to visit."

We had over 80 mini-groups all over the United States join and become informed. Not only did those individuals bring awareness to their small group, but they also posted about it on social media which spread the word to their networks, families, and friends as well.

SHARING WOMEN'S STORIES

Another way we've been engaging our Appalachian Trail and Florida Trail lovers is by creating opportunities to share stories of amazing women on the trail. Wild East Women (WEW) is an affinity group created to help and encourage women to engage with the trail in meaningful ways. The group's goal is to create future women adventurers, stewards, and leaders in the outdoor community. The group has been focused on hosting women's workdays, while responding to COVID-19's impact. Like the virtual hike for LWC, WEW hosted a women's walkabout for National Public Lands Day that invited all to get out for a walk, stroll, or trek nearby in September. Participants were encouraged to incorporate a service component, if possible. A virtual happy hour was also planned to bring everyone together to share the stories of the day and connect the community despite our current social distances.

Sharing volunteer stories is a way to inspire other women to attend future events. Experiences shared by first-timers on volunteer trail crews, especially, show others that everyone is a



Top left: Luz Lituma coordinated the first ever Latinx Trail Crew on the Appalachian Trail as a part of Latino Conservation Week in July 2019.



Top right: A collaborative Florida Trail Association (FTA) volunteer work party with Girls Who Hike FL on the Florida National Scenic Trail in Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

Photo Credit: FTA



Right: Luz Lituma adapts to the times by wearing a mask and hosting a virtual hike during Latino Conservation Week.

Photo Credit: Iris Rivas

beginner at one point. We're also sharing stories through different mediums like podcasts. The WEW group is working with She Explores to develop a podcast series called Where We Walk. This six-part series highlights trails through both the women who helped to build them as well as those who continue to make it what it is today. The series will tell a multi-dimensional story through a range of voices from diverse backgrounds, hoping to engage a wider audience and encourage more folks to embark on their first volunteer journey.

There has been a greater appreciation for the outdoors during this pandemic. It is so inspiring to see people who previously had hardly ever gone outside now hit the trails

and love it. With this new appreciation, we hope we can inform these newer hikers to join and to engage with organizations like the FTA and the ATC, and to learn their efforts and hard work. Continuing with our focus to enhance representation, we are in the process of developing a Storytelling Campfire Panel and a cooking series in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep. 15 - Oct. 15). We hope to inspire many new first-time volunteers in the near future. Even if we can't be together, we'll find ways to make it work.

When it comes to the outdoors, let's work together to change the stories, the connections, and the perspectives of the great outdoors.



Editor's Note: Luz Lituma was awarded a 2020 National Trail Intern Grant from the Partnership for the National Trails System to advance the work of the dual Latinx Partnership Coordinator role with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Florida Trail Association. Learn more about this opportunity:

www.pnts.org/new/intern-grants/

Carin Farley selected as BLM Trails Lead

Carin Farley began her new position as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Scenic and Historic Trail Program Lead on August 30, 2020. The position was formerly held by Kevin Keeler in an acting role after Deb Salt retired in February 2020.

Carin recently served as the Monument Manager for Kasha-Katuwe National Monument and El Malpais National Conservation Area out of the Rio Puerco Field Office in Albuquerque, N.M. During her tenure she has improved relationships with management partners, planned for safe and sustainable solutions on a highly visited Recreation Trail and implemented BLM's first timed ticketed entry through Recreation.gov to address capacity issues and limit exposure to staff and the public during the pandemic.

Before coming to work for the BLM, Carin served as a Visitor and Resource Protection Ranger with the National Park Service for more



Carin Farley



than 21 years. Duty stations include Rocky Mountain National Park (NP), several parks in the Southwest, Great Smoky Mountains NP, and Lake Clark NP and Preserve in Alaska. Much of her time was spent in the field working on trails and wilderness issues.

Most recently, Carin served in a two-year detail as the Chief Ranger for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT). From her time on the AT and working with the Continental Divide Trail as Monument Manager, she understands the complexities of the National Trails System, as well as the extraordinary opportunity to connect all people to our public lands through trails. Through interagency partnerships, collaboration, and policy, Carin has excelled at bringing groups together through commonly defined intentions.

Carin has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management with a minor in Native American studies from Humboldt State University. She is a single mom to a 5-year-old daughter, and they are looking forward to this next adventure.



Contact Carin Farley: cfarley@blm.gov (505) 263-9586

Rose Fennell named Superintendent

National Park Service (NPS) Regional Director Gay Vietzke has named Rosalyn "Rose" Fennell as the new superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail in Pennsylvania. Fennell began her new assignment on September 27, 2020.

"Valley Forge, Hopewell Furnace, and the Washington-Rochambeau Trail each hold dear narratives woven into the tapestry of our national heritage," Rose said. "I look forward to working with staff, partners, and stakeholders to invest wisely in the preservation of these treasured places."

Rose previously served as the Deputy Regional Director for Interior Region 1, North Atlantic—Appalachian overseeing operations for parks and programs located in the northern section of the region, including upstate New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine.

Prior to her regional senior



Rose Fennell



leadership position, Rose served as the Deputy Superintendent for Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historical Site. She was the NPS Bevinetto Congressional Fellow for 2011-2012 and has served as a special assistant to former NPS Director Jon Jarvis and as legislative specialist in the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs.

Prior to her selection as Congressional Fellow, she was the NPS Cooperating Association Coordinator in Washington, D.C. for nine years and worked for nonprofit organizations whose work intersects with the National Park Service, including the Wilderness Society and the Parks and History Association.

Rose's early career was in the field of bookselling where she was a bookstore clerk, book buyer, book reviewer, and eventually a bookstore owner with locations in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, from 1991 until 1998. Her free time is devoted to family, including her wife, Terri, and their companion animals.

Changes within NPS leadership

On August 7, 2020, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt announced the designation of Margaret Everson to exercise the delegable authority of the director of the National Park Service (NPS). Deputy Director for Operations David Vela, who had been serving as the Acting Director of the NPS, retired in September. Margaret had been serving as Counselor to Secretary Bernhardt supporting the NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "David Vela has served the public for 30 years and announced his upcoming retirement today. He has always been committed to the mission of the National Park Service, and I wish him well with his future endeavors," said Secretary Bernhardt. "Margaret Everson is a great leader who will provide a steady hand as this transition takes place for the National Park Service."



As of August 30, 2020, the permanent NPS Deputy Director is Shawn Benghe, who has served as the Acting Deputy Director for Operations since October 2019 and is now responsible for the day-to-day operations of the NPS. Before his current assignment, Shawn served as the associate director for the Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands (PPFL) Directorate. "Shawn brings 32 years of experience at every level of our organization to our leadership. He is well respected throughout our organization and I am thrilled to have him serve in such a vital capacity on our team," Margaret said. "His deep knowledge and understanding of park facility management will be invaluable as we implement the Great American Outdoors Act."



New trail protection case study

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has published its fourth case study about national trail protection efforts. "Protecting Waikapuna: Nana i waele mua i ke ala, mahope aku makou, na poki'i (He or She First Cleared the Path and Then We Younger Ones Followed)" tells the story of how the Ala Kahakai Trail Association acquired the Waikapuna property along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail in 2019.

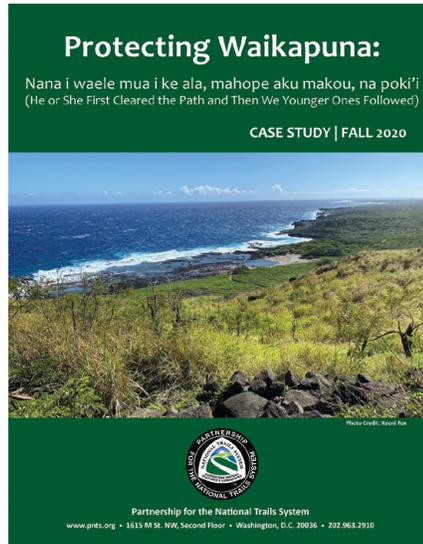
"For sale: 2,317 acres of pristine Hawaiian coastline. Inquire within."

One of hundreds of Hawaii's ancient ahupua'a (mountain-to-sea land divisions), Waikapuna is a spectacular, undeveloped landscape of alkaline and brackish saltwater tide pools, caves, native coastal plants, dry land forest habitat, small sandy bays interspersed with ragged cliffs and vast lava flows, and thousands of archaeological sites associated with a once-thriving Hawaiian fishing and farming community. It is also a key property along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, which follows the shoreline of the great island of Hawaii for nearly 175 miles in a crescent-shaped arc that nearly circumnavigates the island.

"Native Hawaiians have an extremely strong connection to the land. We almost treat the land as if it's a family member," said Keoni Fox, a member of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association's Board of Directors who was involved in protecting the property for many years. "Our burial grounds, our food, our way of life, it's all connected."

The 1868 eruption of Mauna Loa and earthquakes and tsunamis that followed forced thousands of native villagers in Waikapuna and other coastal villages to move inland. For the next century, Waikapuna remained largely untouched, except for a few former residents who maintained their connections to the land, grazing livestock and using ancient trails and paths for subsistence fishing and access to the iwi kupana (burial sites) of their ancestors.

Threatened by high-end residential development since the early 2000s, Waikapuna was acquired in December 2019 by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association as the culmination of a sustained



To view the full case study, visit www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/.

cooperative effort by the association, the local communities near the property, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), State and county government agencies, and even the landowner of the property. It took time to arrive at a deal that satisfied all parties. After years of negotiations, TPL acquired the property, then conveyed the property to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, which in turn simultaneously conveyed a conservation easement to the County of Hawaii, which provided funding from the county's PONC fund, which in turn was matched by funding from the State.

Kaleo Paik, another member of the association's board of directors, offered the following advice: "Too often the trail organizations are looking at government agencies to purchase lands. You are not in the decision-making seat unless you own an interest in the land. Now, we are the landowners. We can make decisions that respect our community, that respect the land and our ancestors. Our mission is to support and guide a community-managed trail that honors those who came before and perpetuates for those to follow—with protocols and respect for Hawaii's past, present, and future. We are following the path of our elders."

This case study was produced with support from the Federal Highway Administration.

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Download the publication to read the full story of how the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and its partners protected the Waikapuna property:

www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/



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Event Calendar

www.pnts.org/new/events/



Event dates/details are subject to change.

Until October 23, 2020	SORP: National Outdoor Recreation Conference	Virtual	www.2020norc.org
October 9-16, 2020	National Wilderness Workshop	Virtual	www.wildernessstewardship.org
October 14-16, 2020	SHIFT Summit: Healthy by Nature	Virtual	www.shiftjh.org
October 21-29, 2020	National Trails Fall Workshop	Virtual	www.pnts.org/new/virtual-workshop-october-2020/
October 22, 2020	Collecting and Applying Trail Count Data	1-2:30PM ET Webinar	www.americantrails.org/training/webinars
October 27-29, 2020	National Recreation and Park Association Conference	Virtual	www.nrpa.org/conference
February 9-12, 2021	Public Lands Alliance Convention and Trade Show	Virtual	www.publiclandsalliance.org
March 7-13, 2021	Sustainable Trails Conference	Bentonville, AR	www.trailbuilders.org

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