

Pathways Across America

2022 NATIONAL TRAILS HIGHLIGHTS

A look at the year on National
Scenic and Historic Trails



A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

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.

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Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Department of Transportation (DOT):

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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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THE 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), over 1,300 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) including 35 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
- Over 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 over 100 major urban areas
- Nearly 1 million hours of volunteer labor help build and maintain annually

www.pnts.org

RAIL TRAILS

- Part of the 1983 amendment to the National Trails System Act
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Total over 25,000 miles through 50 States and the District of Columbia

www.railstotrails.org

RECREATION TRAILS

- Designated by the Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit American Trails
- Over 30,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico

www.americantrails.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

Construction of the Crabgrass Creek Bridges along Florida National Scenic Trail. Photo by the Florida Trail Association.

INSIDE

Left: Women on the Water instructors. Photo by Erin Short.

Center: Alva Matheson's Old Spanish Trail Association Silhouette. Project. Photo by Old Spanish Trail Association.

Right: Essential Trail Maintenance Workshop on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Photo by Kris English.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of Pathways provides a glimpse of the many strides made by nonprofit trail 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. This report does not include many of the achievements of the state, regional, and local public agencies, or many other private organizations that support the trails in a multitude of ways. Highlights have been edited for space and clarity.



Each year, PNTS compiles highlights from member organizations and partners to provide a snapshot of what has happened on National Historic & Scenic Trails (NHST) over the previous year. As you'll see in this issue, it has been an incredible year for National Trails. There is far too much to capture in a single issue, so we will be sharing more highlights with you in the coming months as we reduce our print publications in favor of more frequent online and email communications.

2022 has also been a great year for PNTS. You can expect to see our annual report in the coming month, but here is a snapshot of what we've accomplished in 2022.

Throughout the year, PNTS convenes a network of trail organizations and advocates for collective action to advance top legislative and policy priorities for NSHT. In 2022, we accomplished a long-time priority when Congress directed the Bureau of Land Management to add a budget line for NHST to provide transparency in spending. Also, Hike the Hill® 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of coalitional advocacy across the National Trails System and it gathered one of the largest crowds to date.

We launched the Native Lands, National Trails (NLNT) project to advance awareness of Indigenous ancestral lands along NHST and provide resources that promote meaningful engagement between National Trails managers and stewards and Indigenous communities. NLNT includes an interactive GIS map, trainings, and a resource kit.

We continued to expand training and informational resources by hosting 14 webinars that attracted nearly 260% more participants than the previous year. Attendees learned about Tribal consultation, mapping tools, equity in the outdoors, and more. Also, for the first time in three years, the National Trails Workshop was held in person. Over 200 people attended sessions on Indigenous engagement, campaign planning, and other timely topics at a three-day workshop in Albuquerque, NM.

We also continued to engage next generation leaders on National Trails. Seven emerging leaders participated in our Trail Apprentice Program (TAP), joining us at the workshop to make meaningful connections with trail professionals. The TAP debuted several new career skill-building elements including an Apprentice-led webinar, a social media takeover, and career goal-setting. PNTS also awarded 13 Trail Intern Grants totaling \$100,000 for trail organizations to hire interns to take on projects to increase their capacity and diversity on trails.

As you read this issue of Pathways Across America, I hope you will recognize not only the remarkable achievements made in 2022, but the potential for 2023 and beyond. And I hope you will support PNTS to help us amplify, convene and strengthen a broad network of NHST champions.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Rupp". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Valerie Rupp

ABOUT PNTS



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

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.

CONSERVING TRAIL LANDS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Image 1. A hiker copes with a 120-degree day on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail during a 40-mile stretch with no natural water sources. Photo by Adam Arico.

Last year, National Scenic and Historic Trails across the US continued to protect land, mobilize communities, and advocate for wildlife, ecosystem health, climate resilience, and Indigenous heritage.

Many trail organizations took bold action toward acknowledging the impact of climate change on the Trails System and imagining new ways to mitigate it.

The Appalachian Trail Climate Advisory Group created the Appalachian Climate Corridor Report advocating for the Appalachian landscape's potential to achieve governmental climate and conservation goals. With the **Appalachian National Scenic Trail** at the heart of this landscape, an increase in conservation and climate mitigation efforts would protect the recreational and cultural uses of the Trail and help preserve biological diversity. The report outlines actions for preserving the landscape to ensure it continues to thrive and provide nature-based solutions to climate change.



Image 2. The Appalachian Landscape has a huge potential to drive climate resilience. Photo by Jim Williams.

On the other side of the United States, climate change impacts on the **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** (including wildfire and drought) are being directly addressed by the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). They have made a commitment to promote the impacts of climate change on the Trail. They partnered with climate scientists Brad Marston and John P. O'Brien to write an article about climate change and the PCT experience. Their story was published in the spring issue of the PCTA magazine and widely shared on a global scale.

The **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail** (CDT) is also emerging as an anchor for conversations around large landscape conservation. The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) published the Connecting Across the Continent Report, which demonstrates how the CDT and the National Trails System can provide a path forward for reaching aspirational conservation goals.



Image 3. Along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, hikers encounter countless wildflowers, like the Wood Lilly, that depend on resilient ecosystems. Photo by NPS.



Image 1. The newly designated Continental Divide National Monument in CO. Photo by Jon Resnick.



Image 2. Ribbon cutting celebration at Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park. Photo by Heather Clish, Appalachian Mountain Club.

Land protection is evolving as trail organizations work to return the land to its original Indigenous stewards and include Indigenous history in trail management.

The **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail**, in collaboration with the National Park Service National Historic Landmark (NPS-NHL) program, initiated a project to update the National Register Nomination for the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark to include Indigenous history and use, which has been previously excluded in the nomination. The NPS, partnered with the Library of Congress, produced a draft Letter of Inquiry to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic places, which will be the first step in updating the nomination.

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) developed a Land Protection Strategy for the **New England National Scenic Trail** in Massachusetts with the expert facilitation of Don Owen. They convened with the intention of securing a continuous, permanently protected corridor of land in Massachusetts from the Connecticut border to the New Hampshire border.

The Chesapeake Conservancy and US Fish & Wildlife Service acquired 465 acres of land to protect Fones Cliffs along the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**. The land was

then returned to the Rappahannock Tribe, which plans to build the infrastructure where tribal members can provide education on their history and Indigenous approaches to conservation. This land will connect future generations of Rappahannock youth to their tribal traditions. Later in the year, the Conservation Fund acquired an additional 964 acres along the Rappahannock River to continue to protect Fones Cliffs, a key feature along the Trail.

Additional Land Acquisition and Protection from 2022:

- The Ice Age Trail Alliance protected three new areas for the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail**, which collectively will: allow for progress toward completing the Trail, permanently protect land, eliminate nearly three miles of connecting routes, prevent the development of landscapes, and allow for new sections of the Trail to be created.
- A new trailhead and 23-acre park, Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park, that was once at risk of becoming a subdivision was developed for the **New England National Scenic Trail** in Easthampton, MA.
- In October 2022, President Biden designated Camp Hale–Continental Divide National Monument in Colorado, protecting over 20 miles of the **Continental Divide National Scenic Trail**.
- Ala Kahakai Trail Association acquired over 1,800 acres of land at Kiolaka`a in Ka`ū to protect and preserve the **Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail**, cultural and natural resources as well as the view plane along the coast.



6 **Image 3.** Lolo Trail. Photo by Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Image 4. New England National Scenic Trail. Photo by Appalachian Mountain Club.



Image 1. Caldor Fire damage. Photo by National Pony Express Association



Image 2. Lobanillo Swales trail restoration. Photo by Guy McClellan.

Wildfires have been one of the most devastating impacts of climate change and drought on the National Trails System in the last decade. Here is how trails took action:

Arizona National Scenic Trail

- The Orderville Canyon segment of the Trail was closed for two years after the 2020 Manguem Fire. In 2022, 3 miles of new trail were built in a more sustainable location.

Pony Express National Historical Trail

- In response to the Caldor Fire of 2021, the National Pony Express Association has been working with many organizations and Federal departments to determine the best way to fund and implement the restoration of 5 bridges and 20 miles of trail that was damaged in the fire.

Pacific Northwest Trail National Scenic Trail

- The Performance and Work Based Learning crews logged out 5,180 fallen trees off the Trail in 2022, the majority being in designated wilderness areas where the use of chainsaws is prohibited.



Image 3. John Coffee Memorial Bridge along the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. Photo by NPS.

Other Trail Development & Stewardship Highlights:

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

- 15 miles of trail were rehabilitated along the Trail with the help of youth groups with the Southeast Conservation Corps (SCC). \$140,000 has been added to an agreement with the SCC to continue to engage youth groups on trail rehabilitation projects. The NPS is making plans to address structural issues on the John Coffee Memorial Bridge that the Trail travels over.

Florida National Scenic Trail

- The Florida Trail Association and the USFS developed an in-house chainsaw training and certification program for their staff, volunteers, and partners to prepare the FTA to handle hurricane restoration efforts.

El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail

- El Camino Real de Los Tejas Association (EICaT) refurbished the hiking trail and trailhead at the Lobanillo Swales to slow erosion.

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

- A mile of new trail was opened in Loudoun County, and volunteers made improvements on the Beaverdam reservoir loop.



Image 4. Florida Trail Association Saw Program Coordinator Jeff Glenn prepares a group of volunteers for their first bucking and limbing lessons. Photo by Adam Fryska.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



Image 1. Conference attendees participating in Cherokee dance at Kituwah Mound. Photo by Troy Poteete.

From instituting novel programs to engaging individuals of diverse backgrounds, this work is done in the interest of ensuring that the Trails are welcoming and accessible to all.

Many public events brought communities together to celebrate the culture, history, and scenery of the trails.

The **Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail** completed its second year of the Trail Ambassador Sail program. The program taught citizens about privateers and the African American experience during the War of 1812 aboard the replica War of 1812 schooner **PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II**. The participants sailed the Chesapeake Bay and engaged in the history of the regions along the Trail.

At the National Pony Express Re-Ride, 900 riders and horses traveled the length of the **Pony Express National Historic Trail** to deliver commemorative letters to Old Sacramento, California in just ten days. This reenactment is an annual tradition that honors the Trail's history and still holds many of the dangers that the riders faced historically.

The American Solar Challenge—an international collegiate STEM program competition—took place in July with almost a dozen teams traveling the **Oregon National Historic Trail**. Teams comprised of engineers, designers, fundraisers, public relations managers, and logistics coordinators, along with 100 support crew members, designed, built, and drove solar-powered cars in a cross-country rally event covering a 1,500-2,000-mile course.

The 25th Annual National Trail of Tears Association Conference and Symposium welcomed attendees on an extended field trip to significant sites along the Trail of Tears. The event culminated in a traditional Cherokee dinner and presentations, including one by Dr. Brett Riggs about a recently discovered Cherokee removal route that may lead to an addition to the **Trail of Tears National Historic Trail**.



Image 2. Dan Pralle riding the Pony Express in Kansas.

8 Photo by National Pony Express Association.



Image 3. PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II conducts a Trail Ambassador Sail in Baltimore. Photo by J. Crosby.



Image 1. Larned Grade School performing Santa Fe Trail songs. Photo by the Santa Fe Trail Association.

The Santa Fe Trail Association partnered with the Fort Larned Historical Society, Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site to present Rendezvous 2022: Youth on the **Santa Fe National Historic Trail**. The event showcased experiences from a diversity of youth on the Trail. There were Santa Fe Trail songs performed by local grade school students and musician Jeff Davidson, a panel discussion and a showing of "The Contested Plains," a Santa Fe Trail poetry reading, and a visit to Fort Larned.

E Mau Nā Ala Hele hosted a "walk and talk" along the **Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail** from the Pu'uhonua O Hōnaunau National Historical Park Visitor Center to Kauleoli and back to educate hikers about the area and the history of the trail.

Many trails collaborated with partners to spearhead creative projects and develop new strategies to grow and improve the trails system.

In collaboration with the regional National Trails office, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation completed a survey and



Image 3. Ala Kahakai Trail through a'a lava. Photo by NPS.



Image 2. Mormon Pioneer Inventory project interview. Photo by Mormon pioneer National Historic Trail.

assessment of historic buildings associated with the 1846-1847 Mormon exodus from Nauvoo along the **Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail**. They coordinated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' History Department and other property owners, opening the door to new partnerships and resource preservation efforts along the NHT.

Along the Arizona National Scenic Trail, The Arizona Trail Association worked in collaboration with the Tohono O'odham Nation to develop a trailhead sign that tells the story of a prominent mountain range as a cultural landscape from an Indigenous perspective.

Collaboration with communities, organizations, and governmental entities has allowed many trails to develop and expand their reach across land and culture.

In the southwest, the Arizona Trail Association partnered with Wildlife Corridors LLC to build a new trailhead and connector trail to improve access to the **Arizona National Scenic Trail** near the town of Patagonia. This project helps bring outdoor recreation to rural communities and helps to create a critically



Image 4. Representatives from the Tohono O'odham Nation celebrate the installation of the interpretive sign. Photo by Arizona Trail Association.



Image 1. Image from the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail Exhibit. Photo by National Park Service.



Image 2. High School students who received a JEDI grant, allowing them to participate in a backpacking trip on the North Country National Historic Trail. Photo by Hamtramck High School.

important wildlife migration corridor. The organizations also worked together on interpretive signs, bilingual translation, the development of trail ethics, and public outreach.

The **Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail** has acquired six properties that will be used to expand the Selma Interpretive Center. The expansion will enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the history that the Trail commemorates, interprets, and preserves, through educational programming, accessibility, and opportunities for the community.

The North Country Trail Association's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Mini-Grant provides funding to community programs that serve people experiencing barriers to outdoor experiences and is creating programming in connection with the **North Country National Scenic Trail**. Last year, the grant program supported six projects in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, engaging over 110 participants.

In Kansas, the Nez Perce Foundation has been working tirelessly on several projects associated with the **Nez Perce National Historic Trail**. They are

collaborating with the City of Leavenworth to establish a memorial, expected to break ground in 2023, dedicated to Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce people who were incarcerated at Ft. Leavenworth. They are also working with the Native American University in Lawrence to establish an annual First Nations Cultural event to draw attention to the time that the Nez Perce people were held at Ft. Leavenworth.

The Nez Perce Foundation is also in conversation with Governors, U.S. Senators, Congressmen and women, State Legislators, Mayors, and city council members about extending the trail. For years, the Nez Perce people have advocated for the extension of the trail. The Nez Perce journey did not end with their capture at Bear Paw, but also included their transport to Bismarck, ND, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Baxter Springs, KS, Quapaw, OK, and finally to Oklahoma for 8 years before they were allowed to return to the Northwest.

The **Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail** (SSBNHT) had a successful summer of the Fort McHenry/SSBNHT Paddle Project, which provides fun, meaningful, educational, and recreational guided paddle



Image 3. Art work that depicts the monument that is planned for the City of Leavenworth Kansas. Photo by Jim Zimmerman.



Image 4. Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Paddle Program. Photo by Living Classrooms Foundation/C. Truett.

programs for youth and veterans. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Stewards Program was also a success, connecting students and communities that live along the SSBNHT with historical events that occurred in their backyards.

Trail organizations are artistically preserving past and present through storytelling, visual experiences, performances, and weaving history and modern culture into a single trail.



Image 1. Students learning about California agriculture atop the Anza Trail historic corridor. Photo by Scott Elder.

The **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail** (Anza Trail) travels through Salinas Valley and its complex Indigenous history and rural-to-urban present-day reality. As the Salinas Valley attempts to grow an agritourism identity, the Anza Trail is emerging as a historic connector that can join different elements of the valley (such as farm stands and wineries) while telling a story that illuminates layers of the Valley's culture. The Anza Trail has joined efforts with the Salinas Valley Tourism Bureau and the University of California students in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design to develop a design strategy to thread these layers together in creative collaboration.

Along Highway 115 in southwest Utah, over eighty steel Silhouettes of Mules have been constructed and erected by Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) volunteers. These silhouettes are a visual reminder of a historical time when mules carried goods between New Mexico and California on the **Old Spanish National Historic Trail**. These installations are linked with their new Mobile Map, which helps bring the trail to life by educating users about the history of OSTA.

Throughout 2022, the Santa Fe Trail 200th Timeline Exhibit was displayed at museums, libraries, and events along the **Santa Fe National Historic Trail** to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe



Image 2. Installing Old Spanish Trail Association Silhouettes. Photo by Alva Matheson.

Trail. The portable exhibit offered a timeline featuring over 150 significant places, people, and events to communities along the length of the Trail, allowing museums, libraries, or historical societies to bring visitors to their venues.

Musician and producer Brian Beattie and renowned visual artist Valerie Fowler created a forty-minute artistic performance called "A Time Traveling Trip Across Texas!" detailing the history of **El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail** across space and time. The performance—called a "crankie"—debuted at EICaT's annual meeting in Floresville, Texas, and has been performed in multiple locations across the trail.

The North Country Trail Association collaborated with StoryCorps to record and archive conversations about the people who have helped to develop, maintain, protect, promote, and use the **North Country National Scenic Trail**. Through recording, sharing, and preserving these conversations, the collaboration hopes to recognize the Trail's dedicated volunteers and members and to tell the stories and history of the Trail through a unique lens.



Image 3. Santa Fe Trail 200th Timeline Exhibit. Photo by Paula Ogden-Muse.

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Image 1. Construction of the Crabgrass Creek Bridges along the Florida National Scenic Trail. Photo by Adam Fryska.

Trail managers in the public and private sectors have been hard at work to build alliances for collaboration, expand their capacities, and build upon their ability to welcome visitors to National Trails by strengthening their organizations and their relationships with partners.

Volunteer researchers have discovered more detailed information indicating several portions of the **Trail of Tears National Historical Trail** designated routes in Missouri need realignment. The Missouri Humanities Council has provided funding to organize thousands of documents and maps and make them available along an interactive GIS map. Hundreds of layers of information will soon be available online to scholars and volunteers at a new Trail of Tears archive at <https://MoTrailofTears.com>.

Additionally, National Trails staff completed work with the City of Sheffield, Tennessee Valley Authority, the Trail of Tears Association, and Alta Planning + Design on a Connect Trails to Park Project. This project resulted in the completion of Construction Documents for a trail system and trailhead at the historic Tuscomb Landing site – a high potential site located along the trail.

The **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**

is building an alliance with Amigos de Los Rios (Amigos), an ecological open space advocacy group that focuses on the Latinx populations and spaces in the region. Amigos has created a bold vision for a united sequence of parks and trails following the San Gabriel and Rio Hondo watercourses, which are colinear with the Anza Trail. The collaboration will begin by including the Anza Trail story at a juncture along the San Gabriel River bike path.

El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association partnered with the National Park Service and local communities to develop a Community Chapter program to assist in the protection, development, and promotion of the **El Camino Real de Los Tejas Trail's** resources in their local areas. The program aims to empower local citizen volunteers, elected officials, businesses, and other partners to share the rich history of the Camino Real, develop local

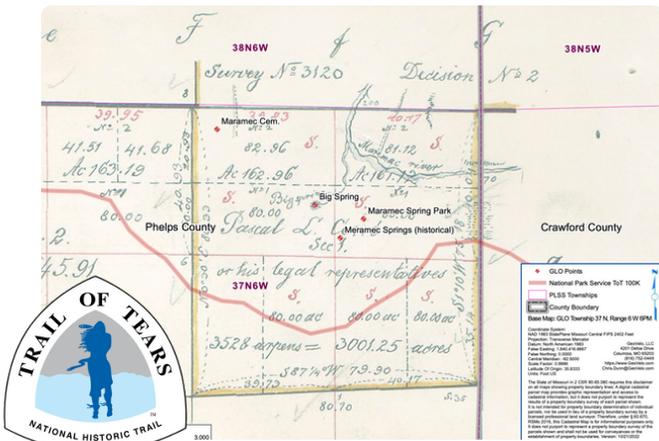


Image 2. Image illustrating GIS mapping in Missouri. Courtesy of Trail of Tears Association.



Image 3. Steven Gonzales speaks to attendees at a chapter outreach meeting in San Marcos, Texas. Photo by Cindy Freeman.



Image 1. Black Rock Historic Site in Magna, Utah. Photo by NPS.



Image 2. Framing of the shelter cabin along the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Photo by Judy Bittner.

trail sites for visitor use, and garner a greater appreciation for the road that led to the founding of Texas and Louisiana.

In April, two certification partnerships with the National Park Service were formed for historically significant sites along the **California National Historic Trail**. Certification is a partnership that helps landowners protect and preserve their historic trail properties and share them with others. One such partnership was formed with Utah's Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, for Black Rock Historic Site, located a mile west of the Great Salt Lake Marina State Park and is visible from the westbound lanes of the freeway. Black Rock Historic Site in Magna, UT was a significant natural landmark for emigrants traveling along the Hastings Cutoff (Donner-Reed Party Route). The other was with Hellyer Limited Partnership for the property Burnt Ranch/9th Crossing of the Sweetwater River in Fremont County, WY. Currently a full-functioning cattle ranch, Burnt Ranch was known as South Pass Station in the trails' eras, witnessing a consistent succession of important people and groups through South Pass.

White Mountain Native Corporation and the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance collaborated to construct a new 12' x 16' shelter cabin along the **Iditarod National Historic Trail** between White Mountain and Nome, which will provide emergency shelter for mushers and other trail users. Volunteers from the White Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Search and Rescue team and other members of the community helped to replace the old shelter, which was damaged from flooding, glaciation and bears.

In partnership with Framing Our Communities (FOC), USFS, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Trail Association replaced 2 boardwalk structures along the **Florida National Scenic Trail** in the Bull Creek area. The local chapter has worked very hard over the years to build a strong relationship with the hunters of Bull Creek, contributing to the success of the project since the hunters lent a small boat to assist with the project and watched over materials at the check station.



Image 3. Wagon swale of the California, Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails on Burnt Ranch, South Pass, Wyoming. Photo by NPS.



Image 4. Construction of the Crabgrass Creek Bridges along the Florida National Scenic Trail. Photo by Adam Fryska.



Image 1. Damascus Trail Center Ribbon Cutting. From left to right, Congressman Morgan Griffiths, NPS Deputy Director Mike Reynolds, ATC Board Chair Colin Beasley, ATC President and CEO Sandra Marra, Damascus Mayor Katie Lamb, Appalachian Regional Commission Director of Critical Infrastructure Molly Theobald, and U.S. Senator Tim Kaine. Photo by Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

National Trails provide affordable outdoor recreation that contributes to the overall health and well-being of millions of people nationwide. National Trails not only connect people and communities to each other, but help to make them healthier, more economically viable, and more resilient.

In October, the Ice Age Trail Alliance hosted its third Mammoth Hike Challenge. This free, month-long event challenged participants to hike the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** and visit Trail Communities. This year, more than 7,000 people registered to participate, 67% of whom were new to the challenge. Participants reported spending \$473,716.69 in the 17 Trail Communities. The Challenge garnered a lot of chatter on social media, generating interest in visiting communities people may never before have thought to visit.

The Florida Trail Gateway Communities Program—a highly successful internship program that creates partnerships with designated towns near the **Florida**

National Scenic Trail that offer accommodations, restaurants, grocery stores activities, and other resources for hikers and recreationists—was transitioned into a full-time staff position in 2022. Hailey Dansby, the first full-time Gateway Community Coordinator has already taken steps to build new kiosks, add several locations to the Florida Trail passport stamp program, and work to develop a GIS Story Map that highlights Gateway Communities throughout the state.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) released a study in January 2022 on the health, social equity, and economic impacts of the **Potomac Heritage National Historic Trail**. On average, a tourist to the region spends more than \$300 during their stay,



Image 2. Fall colors on display in the Valley View segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail during the October Mammoth Hike Challenge. Photo by Kelly DeBlare.



Image 3. Potomac Heritage National Historic Trail. Photo by Bureau of Land Management.



Image 1. Partnership with a local winery demonstrates the importance of trails for rural economies. Photo by Arizona Trail Association.

including \$36 in local taxes. The Benefits of the Trail, however, are not equally distributed. Areas with more socially vulnerable residents typically have fewer access points, more gaps in the trail, and more traffic safety issues than those with less socially disadvantaged residents. The study team worked to develop recommendations for future infrastructure investment and trail programming.

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) partnered with Charron Vineyards to launch a signature red wine featuring a photo from the **Arizona National Scenic Trail** near the winery. 5% of every sale will benefit the ATA. This partnership helps promote the trail and funds projects. The winery also serves as a destination for trail users (day trippers and thru-hikers) as it's a short distance from the trail.

The regional National Trails office finalized an in-house Development Concept Plan (DCP) for the **Old Spanish National Historic Trail** in the San Luis Valley in Colorado in 2022. This project explores the development of the Trail through Costilla, Alamosa, and Saguache counties in the San Luis Valley, Colorado. The San Luis Valley still retains much of the open



Image 2. Appalachian Trail Center, with Emmy. Photo by Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

character that trail travellers would have experienced and provides a unique opportunity to develop an authentic modern Trail experience for both the local communities and visitors alike to this area. When fully developed, the vision is that people following the Trail through these counties will be able to experience its authentic remains, such as extant sites, trail segments, and historically evocative landscapes.

The Damascus Trail Center, a collaboration between the Town of Damascus and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, opened its doors on August 26, 2022. The center serves as a regional hub for outdoor recreation, education, and volunteer opportunities. Exhibits feature information on the three National Trails that surround Damascus—the **Appalachian National Scenic Trail**, Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail, and the **Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail**. The newly developed Trail Center is now a place where explorers of all skill levels can learn about these three trails and how they continue to connect communities.



Image 3. Appalachian Trail Center, Damascus. Photo by Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION, AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION



Image 1. Tribal citizens using a seining net in the Chickahominy River during the maritime crafts field school hosted by the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division. Photo by NPS / Remi Shaull-Thompson.

Education is one of the most valuable resources that the National Trails System has to offer. 2022 hosted a robust array of educational opportunities for both youth and adults helping to foster deeper relationships with landscapes and histories across the nation.

The successful youth education programs that took place last year will provide the foundation for a new generation of trail enthusiasts and stewards.

Over the course of last summer, 425 new Junior Ranger Anglers joined the forces protecting, enjoying, and caring for the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail**. Participants not only learned how to fish, but also about the history and heritage of the Chesapeake Bay, including traditional fishing practices, Indigenous and colonial history in the area, and the role ecosystems of the Bay play in contemporary life.

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), in cooperation with over 25 partner sites and organizations, hosted day-long educational programs throughout the **Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail** that took

place within a three-week span of the Annual Commemorative March to Kings Mountain.

The **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail** Junior Ranger Program and its designer, Caitlin Campbell, were awarded the National Park Service's Freeman Tilden Award for the creative, impactful, and original program within the National Park Service. The booklet begins not with an uncharted wilderness, but with a continent bustling with Native trade, art, and technology. Activities highlight the diverse backgrounds and skills of the Corps of Discovery and the expedition's reliance on Tribal nations.

The Women on the Water program on the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail** provided a challenging and transformative program for young women grades 6-12. Girls participated in educational programs that detailed the Trail's land and sea components in Rhode Island.



Image 2. Girls On the Run Junior Ranger Angler Program.

16 Photo by NPS



Image 3. Caitlin Campbell (right,) recipient of the National Freeman Tilden Award and Junior Ranger Henry (left.). Photo by NPS.



Image 1. Women on the Water. Photo by Erin Short.



Image 2. Students in the Trail Stewards program. Photo by NPS.

Additionally, they participated in half-day sails that included water-based activities and taught skills in swimming, safety, rescue, kayaking, sailing, and navigation.

After 11 years of success and partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Anchorage Park Foundation, and others, the **Iditarod Trail Alliance's** Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!) program continued in 2022 to provide teachers with place-based, service-learning skills to help today's youth become lifelong stewards of Alaska's public lands, natural resources, and cultural heritage.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance continued to get more kids on the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** last year. More than 3,500 students participated in Think Outside, a program for fourth graders, that included classroom instruction about Wisconsin geology and glacial history and an outdoor Trail experience. Saunters, a year-round program, created a more immersive experience along the Trail with over 800 students participating.



Image 4. Fourth Grade Students from Prairie View Elementary hike on the Ice Age Trail as part of Think Outside. Photo by school staff.

The journey of learning about cultures, histories, and different perspectives is ever-changing and ongoing. In 2022, many trails increased accessibility and created special programming and projects to uplift diverse voices by sharing their stories and histories with their communities and beyond.

Last year, the **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** partnered with Crystal Gail Welcome, a writer and activist behind the "Footprints for Change" campaign to provide support for her activism and publish her photos and articles in the Trail's blog and magazine. The stories from the trails reflected a mix of inspiration from positive connections on the trail and sadness over encounters with racism. The Pacific Crest Trail Association gave Crystal the 2022 Luminary Award, honoring her for her courage, determination, and compassion in helping connect people with each other and Nature, and for being a powerful voice of representation by People of Color in the outdoors.

In observance of Black History Month, the **Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail** offered special



Image 3. PCTA Acting Executive Director Megan Wargo presents the 2022 Luminary Award to Crystal Gail Welcome 17 at the Outdoor Retailer show. Photo by PCTA.



Image 1. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro's Spanish website. Photo by Paula Ogden-Muse.



Image 2. Abiquiu/Taos Oral History Project participants. Photo by Old Spanish Trail Association.

programming at the Lowndes Interpretive Center to promote public understanding of important moments in history. The programs covered the history of the voting rights movement, the people behind the voting rights campaign in Lowndes county, the repercussions of fighting for those rights, and the political arena that existed in Lowndes county during this time.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail staff worked with university and NPS interns and fellows to complete the Spanish translations and to create the new El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Spanish website. This NHT is one of the few sites within

NPS with a full Spanish version of its park website.

In Abiquiu and Taos, NM, a series of oral histories were recorded to document the voices and memories of people involved in the **Old Spanish National Historic Trail**. In Abiquiu, the descendants of the Genízaro community—established there by the Spanish in the 1700s for the Indigenous people that were captured to become servants and laborers—still continue to manage the common lands today. The descendants were interviewed, and a video vignette was produced, which will be shown at the Abiquiu Cultural Center and Los Martinez Hacienda Museum.

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

National Park Service (NPS)

- **Trail Administration & Management** — NPS administered 23 National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT), including two co-administered trails. NPS managed national scenic, historic, and recreational trails, including trail components across almost 40% of the National Park System.
- **Funding** — Operational funding of \$17.1 million was provided in support of the National Trails System (NTS) and NPS-administered National Trails. NPS provided \$925,000 in Connect Trails to Parks competitive funding.
- **National Recreation Trails** – NPS provided support to the Secretary of the Interior, who recognized nine new National Recreation Trails in seven States for inclusion as elements of the NTS.
- **Planning & Research** – NPS underwent analysis to inventory, assess, and provide guidance to improve planning efforts across the NPS-administered NSHT. NPS initiated a research effort to better understand and quantify visitation along long linear corridors, including national trails.

US Forest Service (USFS)

- **Technology** — USFS continues to work on a full redesign of their trails infrastructure database to provide a more user-friendly and intuitive database design, modern mobile applications, and more accurate trail data.
- **Training** — USFS worked with American Trails and others to identify core competencies for trail professionals from entry level to expert which will lead to more consistent trail trainings and skill level for the trails workforce, and a recognition of trails work being an area of expertise and a profession.
- **Trail Management** — USFS updated the structure of the Ten Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge to be more clear and action-oriented.

- **Funding** — USFS supported the Trail Stewardship Grant Program, run by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, with \$290k of funding which they leverage at least 6 to 1. USFS worked with American Trails to set up a new \$1.5M grant program to support trail projects.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- **Funding** — The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted November 15, 2021, is the largest long-term investment in the infrastructure and economy in our Nation’s history. It provides \$550 billion from 2022 through 2026 in new Federal investment in infrastructure, including roads, bridges, mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband. In FY 2022, the FHWA issued new guidance for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside, including the Recreational Trails Program. These programs have provided funds for National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- **Training** — Under contract to FHWA, The Corps Network published Building the Future (Vol II): A Guide for Using Federal Transportation and Trail Programs to Partner with Service and Conservation Corps. The guide notes national nonprofit trail organizations with a history of working with Conservation Corps and Federal land managers on recreational trail projects, including PNTS. FHWA also has a contract with American Trails to support the development of trail training materials, and a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service to support trail training and update Forest Service trail documents.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- **Operations** — BLM has begun implementation of their Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring (IAM) methodology along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Old Spanish, and Iditarod National Historic Trails through the HQ contract with Logan Simpson.
- **Training** — A National Scenic Historic Trail (NSHT) Training Strategy was completed that incorporates IAM and the development of an inter-agency NSHT Cornerstones Leadership Course. BLM is currently updating its free self-paced NSHT Management Course hosted by Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands. It is free to the public.
- **Partnerships** — The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is completing its first year of work through an assistance agreement to support the NATIVE Act along the California National Historic Trail in Nevada. As part of this project, AIANTA will host a Tribal Tourism Conference in March 2023 at the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, NV.
- **Funding** — The FY 2021 budget for the NSHT Program was \$8,358,000 across multiple subactivities. Thanks to our partners' support, the program is closer than it has ever been to receiving its own subactivity.

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