2025 STATE OF THE TRAILS

In 2025, more than 20,601 volunteers donated 811,498 service hours, valued at $29,050,152 on National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Each year, Partnership for the National Trails System members and Federal agency partners contribute information to showcase key facts and highlights that demonstrate the range and variety of resources, values, connections, and benefits the National Trails System provides to the nation. While some of the information is not holistic or may be tracked irregularly or with varying degrees of certainty, it provides a snapshot of the work and progress made each year by the nonprofit organizations and Federal partners that work together throughout the year to create and sustain a vibrant, world class National Trails System for all.

National Scenic & Historic Trails

The 32 National Scenic & Historic Trails (NSHT) authorized by Congress

- 21 National Historic Trails
- 11 National Scenic Trails

Over +59k miles of NSHT designated to date

- 37,400+ miles as part of National Historic Trails
- 17,900+ miles as part of National Scenic Trails

National Trails connect people and landscapes

NSHT connect and travel through:

- 390+ National parks, forests, wildlife refuges, nationally designated wilderness areas
- 230+ Major urban areas and 'Trail Towns'
- 100+ Bureau of Land Management areas, and more

Engagement

2,231 programs were conducted and **engaged 71,374 people** including:

- 13,594 youth K-12
- 4,581 young adults 18-25
- 698 Veterans

Collaboration

159 partnerships that help manage, steward or support the NSHT organizations.

105 State, Tribal, regional, and local government agencies have played an active role in managing and sustaining trails through formal agreements.

85 Indigenous communities or nations collaborated with NSHT organizations or Federal agencies in sustaining and supporting trails.

Land Protection & Restoration

4,395 miles of trail and 3,334,572 acres of public land are currently dedicated to the preservation of the trail and associated resources.

8,745 miles of trail were maintained or built in 2025.

- 73 miles of trail were reconstructed
- 8,655 miles of trail were maintained
- 1,017 maintenance and construction projects were executed
- 73 signage and trail marking projects were completed

Qualified Service or Corps members spent 54,301 hours performing maintenance or construction activities.

In 2025, 13 High Potential Sites were marked or interpreted, while 9 High Potential Sites were reported to be facing threats due to disrepair, development or other challenges.

Local Impact

546 communities participated in Trail Towns or gateway programs organized by NSHT organizations.

Gateway Communities or Trail Towns programs are coordinated by several NSHT nonprofit organizations to promote local communities and attract visitors and tourists to local businesses, resulting in increased foot traffic and increased recognition of both towns and trails.

Visitation & Accessibility

The majority of NSHT reported an increase in use in 2025 despite **23,672 acres of trail land being damaged by natural disaster** (wildfires/floods/etc) and 164 trail miles being closed for longer than 4 months. Trails overcame challenges including:

- Wildfire
- Record snow pack
- Storm events & hurricanes
- Sign destruction
- Flooding
- Trail closures
- Erosion
- Falling Trees