



# 2013 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report

A report on the use and benefits of Federal Recreational Trails  
Program funds across the United States

Covers the period of Federal FY 1993-FY 2012

Prepared for



U.S. Department of Transportation  
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Prepared by

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**Over the 20 years of its existence, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is responsible for creating and improving over 17,000 trail-related projects nationwide, including urban greenways, nature centers, and horse, hiking, mountain bike, and motorized trails, as well as snow and water routes.**

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**A review of RTP-funded projects reveals many benefits across the country, including:**

- **Economic stimulus,**
- **Youth employment,**
- **Accessibility improvements,**
- **Safe and livable communities,**
- **Health and fitness,**
- **Habitat conservation, and**
- **Active transportation.**

**This report covers the period of Federal FY 1993-FY 2012.**



# 2013

# RTP Annual Report

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Funding &amp; Administration</b>	<b>6</b>
RTP Allocations: All States, All Years	
RTP Apportionments and Obligations by State for FY 2012	
RTP Database Projects and Funding FY 1993-2012	
<b>Use of Recreational Trails Program Funds</b>	<b>11</b>
Permissible Uses	
RTP Database Trail Project Work by Permissible Use FY 1993-2012	
Managed Uses	
<b>RTP Database Project</b>	<b>21</b>
Background	
Current Database Update Project	
<b>Findings</b>	<b>23</b>
RTP Database Findings	
National Trends	
<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Annual Achievement Awards</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Photo Credits</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Technical Assistance and Acknowledgements</b>	<b>46</b>



The Tennessee River Park runs 10 miles from the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Chickamauga Dam along the Tennessee River to downtown Chattanooga

# Executive Summary

RTP is the foundation for State trail programs across the country. It leverages hundreds of millions of dollars of additional support from other sources for trails, encourages cooperation among trail users, and facilitates healthy outdoor activity, as well as economic activity in countless communities.

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Access the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Database at:

<http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is leading the United States in developing a surface transportation system to move people and goods in a safe, accountable, flexible, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner. FHWA's partnerships and programs benefit communities, enhance the quality of life for Americans, and assure access for all to the Nation's transportation network and to recreational activities.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a Federal-aid assistance program of the FHWA to help the States provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and nonmotorized trail use. The purpose of the program is to provide funds in support of a wide variety of trail activities and related facilities, as well as environmental education and safety programs.

The RTP was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA),

“ ”

**RTP is the glue that helps connect trail systems in state parks and other outdoor spaces all across America... RTP builds trails that wouldn't get built any other way.**

**– Bill Bryan, Director, Missouri State Parks; Legislative Committee Chair, National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD)**

reauthorized in 1998 as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and reauthorized again in 2005 through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The RTP is included in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the transportation reauthorization bill signed by President Obama on July 6, 2012.

MAP-21 reauthorized the RTP through Federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014 as a set aside from the new Transportation Alternatives Program.

The RTP applies the “user-pay/user-benefit” philosophy of the Highway Trust Fund, returning Federal tax on fuel used for nonhighway recreation to the States for trail projects. Program implementation is consistent in practice with other expenditures from the Highway Trust Fund. Although the gas tax supporting the RTP is paid primarily by motorized recreation vehicle use, resources are shared among all users of recreational trails to develop a balanced system.

Over 20 years, RTP funding has grown to represent a more equitable portion of the total fuel taxes paid by nonhighway recreationists, although that portion is still less than 42 percent of the total taxes paid annually by nonhighway recreationists.

The RTP database reveals that over 17,000 RTP-funded projects have been documented nationwide. Annual funding is currently up to \$84 million, as approved under MAP-21. Since 1991, the RTP has apportioned nearly \$1 billion in Federal funding to the States for local project funding.

In addition to the benefits of the funding spent on trail projects, there have been two additional important results of the RTP:

1. Every State has established its own State trail program with a designated administrator for assistance on trail issues and coordination of trail planning.
2. Because the funds are distributed for both motorized and nonmotorized trail work, all trail interests have had an incentive to cooperate and learn from each other.



Learn more about MAP-21 at:

<http://goo.gl/aRD1VZ>



The Iron Range OHV Recreation Area in Minnesota was redeveloped from an abandoned taconite mine

The legislation establishes requirements for project eligibility but provides substantial flexibility to the States on project selection.

# Funding & Administration



Oklahoma has funded almost 250 projects throughout the life of this program. Without RTP, our state would have no funding for trail facilities.

-- Susan Henry, Federal Grants Administrator  
Oklahoma State Parks

These Federal funds will provide up to 80 percent of the project cost and require project sponsors to provide the additional matching resources. In many cases, the actual match from the project partners is 50 percent or more.

For on-the-ground trail projects, States are required to use 40 percent of their funds apportioned in a fiscal year for diverse recreational trail use, 30 percent for motorized recreation, and 30 percent for nonmotorized recreation.

The specifics of how to apply this formula to project selection is up to the States, and varies considerably around the country. States with large Federal land ownership sometimes fund backcountry projects with both motorized and nonmotorized use to achieve diversity. Others may fund projects with adjacent paved and unpaved trail surfaces for diverse nonmotorized activities, or trails with winter snowmobiling and summer ATV use.



The RTP is responsible for creating/improving hundreds of community, nature, equestrian, mountain bike, and motorized trails across the State of Texas that would not exist today without 20 years of RTP dedicated funding.

– Andy Goldbloom, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Each State:

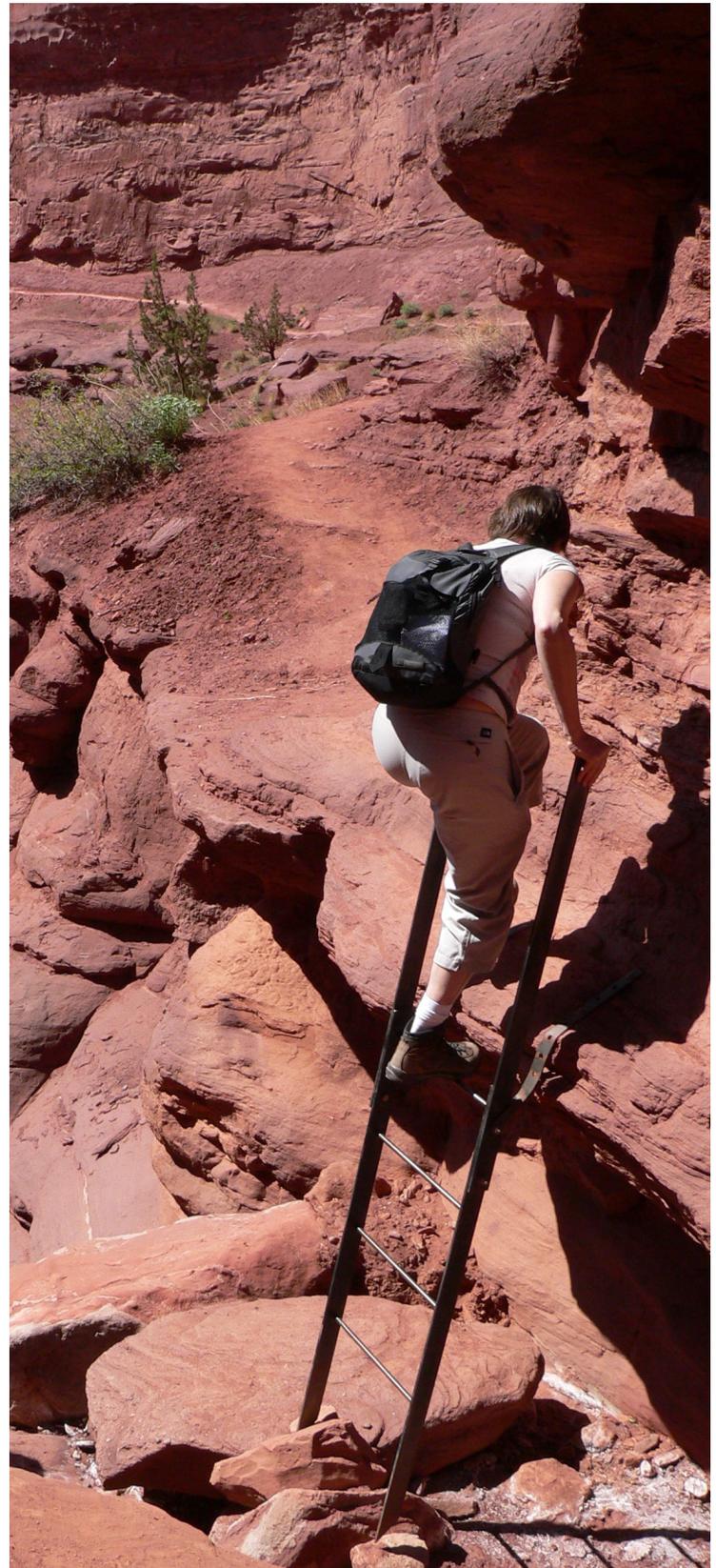
- Receives funds apportioned by statutory formula
- Administers its own program, usually through a State resource or park agency
- Develops its own procedures to solicit and select projects for funding
- Establishes a State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee (representing both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail users) to assist with the program

States are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps. These partnerships with various types of service corps have proven very popular in most States. There are many examples of projects completed by youth conservation or service corps working in cooperation with private contractors, agency or community staff, and volunteers.

Entities that are eligible to sponsor projects and receive grants are nonprofit organizations, private entities, and units of municipal, county, and State, and Federal government.

In some parts of the country the major trail recreation provider is the State parks agency, whether on parklands, rail-trails, or stream corridors. In other areas, funding may go to Federal land managers for trails on national forests, national wildlife refuges, national parks, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. In every State, municipalities and counties are important sponsors of community trail systems.

Nonprofit groups may also be the trail manager, such as the Nature Conservancy or local land trusts. Private entities may also receive funding where the trails are open to the public.



## Table 1 – RTP Apportionments: All States, All Years

This table shows RTP funding authorized by Congress for use by States each year of the program. From FY 2005 through FY 2012, FHWA could use up to \$840,000 annually for program administration and trail related research, technical assistance, and training. (Under MAP-21, the States will return 1 percent to FHWA for program administration: up to \$841,600.)

The funds were allocations in 1993, 1996 and 1997, but the funds were apportionments for 1998-2012.

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**  
For current apportionments to States and details of year by year apportionments and obligations:

<http://goo.gl/hVwBI8>

Allocations (All States)	RTP Funding	Obligated
1993 Allocation	\$7,275,000.00	\$5,696,543.00
1994 Allocation	\$0.00	\$1,581,335.00
1995 Allocation	\$0.00	\$0.00
1996 Allocation	\$14,688,000.00	\$11,595,074.81
1997 Allocation	\$14,688,000.00	\$16,256,403.22
1998 Apportioned	\$29,550,000.00	\$14,691,339.21
1999 Apportioned	\$39,400,000.00	\$33,750,925.50
2000 Apportioned	\$49,250,000.00	\$44,161,037.17
2001 Apportioned	\$49,250,000.00	\$44,826,248.11
2002 Apportioned	\$49,250,000.00	\$47,586,187.57
2003 Apportioned	\$48,929,875.00	\$44,915,196.84
2004 Apportioned	\$57,656,952.00	\$43,957,595.25
2005 Apportioned	\$59,160,000.00	\$43,459,118.91
2006 Apportioned	\$68,468,400.00	\$57,983,555.46
2007 Apportioned	\$74,160,000.00	\$65,913,963.94
2008 Apportioned	\$79,160,000.00	\$62,787,840.42
2009 Apportioned	\$84,160,000.00	\$81,113,236.04
2010 Apportioned	\$84,160,000.00	\$52,908,921.67
2011 Apportioned	\$96,570,196.00	\$88,649,335.25
2012 Apportioned	\$78,569,033.00	\$68,360,433.76
<b>1993-2012 Totals</b>	<b>\$984,600,453.00</b>	<b>\$830,194,291.00</b>
<b>1993-2012 Obligation Rate</b>		<b>84.32%</b>

---- NOTES ----

**Table 1 (Page 8) and Table 3 (Page 10)**

The difference in the totals in Table 1 and Table 3 (Page 10) is due to the different “sources” providing the information (see the notes below) and the manner in which a State obligates its funding (i.e., some States obligate funds every other year). Additionally, the RTP database does not currently have complete data for all States; data collection and validation for the RTP database is an on-going effort. Data will be regularly entered into the database as it is received from the States and the District of Columbia.

The obligation rate represents the percentage of funds committed to projects compared to the funds available. The obligation rate for the overall Federal-aid highway program averages about 95 percent over time. The obligation rate for the RTP has trended in the 80 to 85 percent range. There are many reasons why the RTP has a lower obligation rate. The obligation authority for the Federal-aid highway program is lower than the apportionments, so some States give priority to other Federal-aid highway programs. Some States select projects on two-year cycles (even-numbered years tend to have lower obligation rates). Some States delay project selection and implementation when there is uncertainty about the reauthorization of the program, or take time to implement the program after each new authorization act.

For the time period FY 2009 through 2012, the obligation rate for the RTP was 84.74%. FY 2010 was low (62.57 percent) for several reasons listed above, and also possibly because many States were dedicating resources to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Table 2 (Page 9):**

FY 2012 apportionments were reduced from the \$85 million authorized because of mandatory rescissions. States also must consider limitations on Federal-aid highway program obligations.

**Sources**

The source for the data in Tables 1 and 2 is the Federal Highway Administration’s Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS).

The source for the data in Tables 3 and 4 (Page 18) is information provided by the States for the Recreational Trails Program Database ([www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org](http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org)).

## Table 2 – RTP Apportionments and Obligations by State for Federal FY 2012

This table shows the number of projects per State for Federal FY 2012.

It shows RTP funds apportioned to each State for the most recent year of the program. Half of the funds are distributed equally among all States, and half are distributed in proportion to the estimated amount of off-road recreational fuel use in each State: fuel used for off-road recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles, and off-road light trucks.

This table also shows obligations by State. Obligations are the Federal government's legal commitment (promise) to pay or reimburse the States or other entities for the Federal share of a project's eligible costs.

\*State did not award any FY 2012 projects

\*\*State's FY 2012 projects awaiting Federal approval

**ONLINE RESOURCE:**  
Recreational Trails Program  
Apportionments and  
Obligations, FY 2012 by  
State

<http://goo.gl/BXTXM7>

State	2012 Projects	FY 2012 Apportionment	FY 2012 Obligation
Alabama	19	\$1,633,544.00	\$2,438,563.21
Alaska	7	\$1,426,418.00	\$525,089.85
Arizona	5	\$1,806,325.00	\$1,028,850.64
Arkansas	28	\$1,394,721.00	\$1,629,464.00
California	4	\$5,373,790.00	\$2,205,342.11
Colorado	13	\$1,485,914.00	\$823,478.79
Connecticut**	0	\$898,293.00	\$658,925.70
Delaware	0	\$845,513.00	\$0.00
District of Columbia	4	\$770,285.00	\$483,943.52
Florida	13	\$2,429,639.00	\$247,639.78
Georgia	20	\$1,624,535.00	\$1,464,588.10
Hawaii	124	\$896,658.00	\$1,016,798.00
Idaho	39	\$1,596,923.00	\$1,512,081.00
Illinois	22	\$1,423,968.00	\$2,885,139.39
Indiana	7	\$1,121,876.00	-\$1,117,687.25
Iowa	16	\$1,283,484.00	\$1,365,379.58
Kansas	16	\$1,292,291.00	\$1,907,124.00
Kentucky**	0	\$1,329,769.00	\$1,510,275.00
Louisiana	18	\$1,416,822.00	\$945,511.80
Maine	30	\$1,346,896.00	\$572,440.00
Maryland	48	\$1,048,975.00	\$966,601.00
Massachusetts	24	\$1,107,892.00	\$949,921.32
Michigan	23	\$2,664,359.00	\$7,096,000.01
Minnesota	14	\$2,255,544.00	\$973,554.00
Mississippi	9	\$1,271,448.00	\$1,765,483.00
Missouri	15	\$1,552,895.00	\$1,506,202.87
Montana	51	\$1,499,967.00	\$1,340,166.22
Nebraska	3	\$1,136,513.00	\$856,758.30
Nevada	16	\$1,267,738.00	\$1,435,990.00
New Hampshire	35	\$1,183,711.00	\$1,647,441.00
New Jersey	34	\$1,145,260.00	\$0.00
New Mexico	3	\$1,334,844.00	\$865,836.23
New York*	0	\$2,058,102.00	\$676,945.00
North Carolina	23	\$1,506,367.00	\$432,867.00
North Dakota	11	\$1,056,687.00	\$879,102.57
Ohio	14	\$1,560,786.00	\$264,370.64
Oklahoma	16	\$1,668,362.00	-\$94,999.80
Oregon	29	\$1,503,186.00	\$810,351.77
Pennsylvania	13	\$1,858,981.00	\$4,652,017.40
Rhode Island	19	\$807,568.00	\$911,351.00
South Carolina	11	\$1,130,756.00	\$1,098,710.01
South Dakota	15	\$1,061,646.00	\$1,645,555.17
Tennessee	26	\$1,531,623.00	\$278,329.06
Texas	36	\$3,729,436.00	\$3,729,433.00
Utah	22	\$1,458,094.00	\$1,504,287.25
Vermont	76	\$959,717.00	\$886,779.00
Virginia	6	\$1,425,708.00	\$1,775,444.00
Washington	30	\$1,760,960.00	\$1,959,773.00
West Virginia	22	\$1,223,977.00	\$446,982.23
Wisconsin	76	\$2,023,744.00	\$3,347,735.20
Wyoming	28	\$1,376,523.00	\$1,648,499.09
<b>Total to States</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>\$78,569,033.00</b>	<b>\$68,360,433.76</b>

**Table 3 – RTP Database Projects and Funding  
Federal FY 1993-FY 2012**

<b>State</b>	<b>1993-2012 Projects</b>	<b>Total RTP Funding</b>	<b>Total Other Funding</b>
Alabama	286	\$18,491,397.07	\$5,548,112.11
Alaska	352	\$11,782,786.10	\$4,227,023.26
Arizona	166	\$10,368,967.00	\$6,831,059.25
Arkansas	309	\$12,947,767.00	\$4,812,532.25
California	345	\$45,241,463.04	\$15,583,952.86
Colorado	382	\$12,145,908.00	\$21,496,013.50
Connecticut**	250	\$9,308,398.74	\$2,706,817.99
Delaware*	115	\$4,945,405.54	\$4,551,610.89
District of Columbia	30	\$6,684,292.98	\$1,572,022.90
Florida	156	\$18,646,583.89	\$13,191,200.51
Georgia	217	\$21,437,839.17	\$18,986,188.00
Hawaii	826	\$8,870,203.00	\$2,510,518.50
Idaho	502	\$15,472,275.50	\$14,379,162.12
Illinois	239	\$22,586,525.20	\$7,738,391.85
Indiana	120	\$15,842,903.18	\$5,313,974.69
Iowa	127	\$23,031,303.06	\$8,241,774.41
Kansas	279	\$15,721,863.47	\$9,348,987.25
Kentucky**	394	\$14,352,875.60	\$14,365,351.70
Louisiana	313	\$17,442,324.00	\$13,401,565.05
Maine	521	\$12,209,433.37	\$4,307,002.59
Maryland	644	\$14,837,100.42	\$6,351,669.16
Massachusetts	358	\$9,776,289.32	\$7,728,207.94
Michigan	261	\$32,717,001.00	\$20,124,331.25
Minnesota	345	\$21,047,577.48	\$28,599,241.25
Mississippi	225	\$17,091,600.92	\$3,952,114.23
Missouri	273	\$18,260,299.90	\$18,908,472.73
Montana	610	\$14,353,720.00	\$5,673,860.25
Nebraska	119	\$11,699,242.76	\$6,153,028.27
Nevada	250	\$12,486,916.00	\$8,666,779.50
New Hampshire	670	\$10,172,115.80	\$14,359,392.23
New Jersey	744	\$16,015,934.00	\$38,324,626.15
New Mexico	181	\$14,005,730.58	\$5,932,151.32
New York*	318	\$25,323,736.00	\$11,481,058.75
North Carolina	440	\$19,092,810.00	\$29,180,080.65
North Dakota	223	\$11,368,312.93	\$3,375,061.34
Ohio	257	\$17,249,150.23	\$18,737,517.56
Oklahoma	237	\$17,361,947.12	\$8,698,942.95
Oregon	361	\$15,831,474.50	\$16,564,272.50
Pennsylvania	357	\$26,772,159.00	\$15,721,578.50
Rhode Island	265	\$4,379,864.43	\$2,672,600.70
South Carolina	216	\$12,787,851.70	\$4,472,929.67
South Dakota	316	\$14,814,265.55	\$8,372,884.61
Tennessee	244	\$17,544,025.74	\$5,454,823.00
Texas	369	\$39,351,754.22	\$10,357,472.00
Utah	361	\$17,946,888.28	\$19,684,627.23
Vermont	1,056	\$11,060,223.80	\$17,094,707.03
Virginia	292	\$19,924,288.36	\$8,968,339.79
Washington	562	\$21,250,150.43	\$31,618,060.80
West Virginia	264	\$11,404,935.00	\$3,250,898.00
Wisconsin	537	\$17,140,910.00	\$11,844,715.25
Wyoming	384	\$15,302,882.06	\$13,084,615.49
<b>Total:</b>	<b>17,668</b>	<b>\$827,410,275.37</b>	<b>\$584,522,321.77</b>

The **Total Other Funding** consists of the required match and additional funding sources.



RTP funding gives States the flexibility to respond to the needs and interests of the public.

California's Rubicon Trail reconstruction project enabled persons with disabilities to enjoy new scenic vistas of Lake Tahoe

## Use of Recreational Trails Program Funds

States may use RTP funds for a variety of specific project types and expenditures which fall under eight categories of Permissible Uses. The sections below provide more detail and examples of the eight Permissible Uses. The RTP legislation identifies these general Permissible Use categories as:

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See the text of the authorizing legislation defining Permissible Use categories:

<http://goo.gl/C5Z0y>

- A** Trail maintenance and restoration
- B** Trailside and trailhead facilities
- C** Equipment for construction and maintenance
- D** Construction of new recreational trails
- E** Acquisition of trail corridors
- F** Assessment of trail conditions
- G** Education for safety and environmental protection
- H** Administration

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# A

### Trail maintenance and restoration

**Category A:** Maintenance and restoration of existing trails: trail maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, or relocation. This category may include maintenance and restoration of trail bridges, or provide appropriate signage along a trail.

#### Project Example

### Wild Rivers State Trail, Wisconsin

In 2004 Washburn County, Wisconsin received \$12,500 from the RTP program to re-deck 12 bridges located along the segment of the Wild Rivers State Trail that runs through Washburn County. The Wild Rivers Trail is a 104-mile trail that traverses three counties in northwestern Wisconsin and provides connections to hundreds of miles of snowmobile and ATV trails.

The trail is used by snowmobilers and some cross-country



skiers in winter with ATV and some equestrian use in the summer. Maintaining the bridges has allowed 104 miles of continuous trail to remain open, not only accommodating year-round use for different forms of recreation but also providing a transportation corridor for the towns along the trail.

See the CRT Award for this trail at:

<http://goo.gl/qaKH69>

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# B

### Trailside and trailhead facilities

**Category B:** Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails. Typical eligible work includes parking areas, toilets, horse and vehicle unloading facilities, signs, and seating.

#### Project Example

### Penny Lake Trail, Maine

This half-mile accessible nature trail is on the Boothbay Region Land Trust's Penny Lake Preserve. The bridge over the wetlands was constructed to also serve as a viewing platform to allow users to view the complex and its associated flora and fauna. A new trailhead and interpretive displays are also part of the facilities for the project. The 55-acre conservation property in downtown Boothbay Harbor, Maine abuts the local YMCA, regional school, and the St. Andrews Retirement Village, a 98-unit retirement/assisted-living complex that gave a conservation



and trail easement on a portion of their property to the land trust.

The land trust partnered with several organizations in the planning, design, and construction of this trail. Key to this project were the \$15,000 of RTP funds awarded in 2005, which were used to assist with the construction of the trail. The Penny Lake Trail was sited to take advantage of areas with gentle slopes, using reclaimed asphalt for surfacing.

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# C

### Equipment for construction and maintenance

**Category C:** Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment. Examples include snow trail grooming equipment, mechanized trailbuilding equipment, vehicles for trail maintenance, and other equipment to help maintain the trail surface, drainage, adjacent vegetation, etc.

#### Project Example

### Northern Erie SnoSeekers Trail Grooming, New York

In Western New York, the Northern Erie SnoSeekers, Inc. maintains over 120 miles of winter trails in a partnership among volunteers, local governments, and over 200 landowners across three counties. These trails provide direct connections to towns, local attractions and businesses, emergency services, and other regional trail systems.



RTP funding enabled the nonprofit group to replace aging snow maintenance equipment. It also enables more volunteers to groom the trails more often and more efficiently, reducing volunteer fatigue and enhancing the quality of trails. An additional 1,520 mile extension will create new connections while enhancing the economic benefits of the trail system to snowbelt communities.

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# D

### Construction of new recreational trails

**Category D:** Construction of new recreational trails. This is the largest category of expenditures in most States, and includes paved and unpaved trails, water trails, snow trails, and bridges. The needs of local communities, agencies, and trail users are reflected in the great variety of trail construction that has been accomplished. Urban trails, greenways, natural surface pathways, paddling routes, and recreational vehicle routes are all well represented in RTP funding.

#### Project Example

### Swords Park Trail, City of Billings, Montana

The Swords Park Trail runs through the entire length of the City-owned park that is located along the top of the Rimrocks above the Yellowstone River. It connects neighborhoods and open space, and provides cultural and



natural resource interpretation along the corridor. The ten foot wide, hard surface trail hosts a variety of trail activities and is accessible for wheelchair users. The construction of the trail has provided the opportunity to rehabilitate an environment that was degraded. Now with increased usage of the trail, more people are the “eyes and ears” to help protect the area. New life has come to the park as wildflowers and other vegetation have been restored, providing new wildlife habitat.



## Project Example

### Redbird State Recreation Area, Indiana

Redbird began as Indiana's first publicly owned off-highway vehicle riding area. Named after the Redbird Coal Mine, the property is approximately 1,400 acres of former surface and underground coal mine land. RTP funds were used to acquire additional property to expand trail opportunities for nonmotorized activities as well as recreational vehicle users. As growth in visitation continues, the goal is to transition from a motorized use only property to a multi-use State park.

Other popular activities at the park include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, mushrooming, and picnicking. Plans include additional bike trails, interpretive loops, and a paved accessible trail, and improvements to trailheads with shelters, restrooms, and parking.

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# E

### Acquisition of trail corridors

**Category E:** Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors. This category may include acquisition of old road or railroad bridges to be converted to trail use. Acquisition of any kind of interest in property must be from a willing landowner or seller.



## Project Example

### Trail Assessment for Sustainability and Accessibility, Office of Greenways and Trails, Florida State Parks

The Florida Office of Greenways & Trails works with RTP project sponsors to assess local and State trails for improvements in accessibility as well as management. Participants learn how to map trails considering cross slope, grade, obstacles, and trail width, as well as providing objective trail information to recreational trail users and trail managers.

The State has also sponsored adaptive paddling workshops to assess opportunities for expanding the accessibility of water trails. Workshops focused on how various types of launch facilities would function for wheelchair users, assisted and unassisted rescues of a paddler who cannot use their legs, and the best ways to assist paddlers with disabilities into and out of kayaks and canoes.

FHWA guidance is available at:

<http://goo.gl/VnzbAw>

## PERMISSIBLE USE

F

### Assessment of trail conditions

**Category F:** Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance, authorizes specific projects to assess trails to determine the level of accessibility for people who have disabilities, to develop programs to provide trail access information, and to assess trails for current or future maintenance needs.

States may provide funds for trail assessments through:

- Hiring professional trailbuilders or assessors
- Hiring professionals to provide on the job training for others to do trail assessments
- Using youth conservation or service corps, State or local staff, volunteers, etc.



## Project Example

### School Messaging Safety and Environmental Education, Minnesota

This project to promote safe and responsible use of off-highway recreation vehicles by young people was led by a coalition of four groups representing ATV, trail motorcycle, four-wheel drive, and snowmobile users. These organizations also provided matching funds to help develop the youth oriented OHV safety and responsibility messages.

The colorful posters are 5' x 5' and can be put on any surface of the school including lockers, floors, walls, gymnasiums, etc. The posters went into five school districts and a total of 23 elementary, middle, and high schools where over 20,000 kids had the opportunity to view the posters daily. Following the successful pilot project, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council adapted the posters for others to use. All posters are available at no cost to any OHV club or State association, as well as powersports dealerships, organizations, and State and Federal agencies.

FHWA guidance is available at:

<http://goo.gl/gM3AZo>

## PERMISSIBLE USE

# G

### Education for safety & environmental protection

**Category G:** Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection.

A State may use up to 5 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as those objectives relate to the use of recreational trails.



The State Trails Council is an independent forum for finding solutions to trail problems for both motorized and nonmotorized groups, and is a Statewide advocate for public/private cooperation in funding and management of trail systems.

-- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



## Project Example

### Wisconsin State Trails Council

The Wisconsin State Trails Council consists of representatives from 11 recreational trail user groups, covering the full range of motorized, nonmotorized, and mechanized activities. Members are deeply active in their respective associations, and bring an intimate knowledge of the individual, and often quite localized, issues facing their respective member groups and communities.

Because of the members' strong ties to their trail groups and users, the Council has contributed highly useful recommendations to State and local agencies involved in the grant program, and to all those responsible for establishing and managing trails in Wisconsin.

Perhaps having the greatest impact, the Council recently instigated the establishment of a maximum grant amount for the State's RTP grant awards. This grant cap has enabled smaller trail groups or projects to participate in the grant program, and has enabled the apportioning of the available funding to be spread throughout the State, with the number of local grants increasing from eight to 75.

## PERMISSIBLE USE



### Administration

**Category H:** Payment of costs to the State incurred in administering the program. In addition to Staff time to administer the program and grants, other activities related to recreational trails are eligible under this category, including:

- Costs related to the State recreational trail advisory committee - newsletters, websites, or other communications
- Publications and conferences related to trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment
- Statewide trail planning

A State may use up to 7 percent of its apportionment each fiscal year for State administrative costs in that fiscal year. Any funds not used for administration within a fiscal year must be used for on-the-ground trail projects.

FHWA guidance is available at:

<http://goo.gl/IM1GDu>

## Table 4 – RTP Database Trail Project Work by Permissible Use Federal FY 1993-FY 2012

For 14,770 Projects that Reported Permissible Use Data

Data collection and validation for the RTP database is an on-going effort. Data will be regularly entered into the database as it is received from the States, District of Columbia, and other sources.

Category	Total Projects	
<b>A. Maintenance and Restoration</b>	<b>7,835</b>	
Maintenance	2,467	
Grooming	835	
Renovation	2,322	
Improvements	1,937	
Bridge	274	
<b>B. Trailside and Trailhead Facilities</b>	<b>3,886</b>	
Signs	1,765	
Parking	663	
Restroom	460	
Trailhead Work	998	
<b>C. Equipment for Construction and Maintenance</b>	<b>1,607</b>	
<b>D. Construction of New Recreational Trails</b>	<b>5,848</b>	
Trail	4,855	
Bridge	993	
<b>E. Acquisition of Trail Corridors</b>	<b>134</b>	
<b>F. Assessment of Trail Conditions*</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>G. Education for Safety and Environmental Protection</b>	<b>1,011</b>	
Education	646	
Maps	173	
Brochures	192	
<b>H. Administration</b>	<b>113</b>	

Note: Some projects may qualify under more than one permissible use category.

Recreational Trails Program funds may be used to finance projects within the eight different Permissible Use categories listed in the table. Shown are the numbers of projects that have been funded within each category since the inception of the program with some categories broken down to further specify the project type.

Note that many RTP projects qualify under more than one category. Maintenance and restoration projects prove to be the most commonly funded, followed by new trail construction projects and trail facility projects, respectively.

**ONLINE RESOURCE**  
Recreational Trails Program Database

[www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org](http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org)

\* The "Assessment of Trail Conditions" Permissible Use category was added in 2006, so the data from earlier years would not be available. Although no projects are shown in Table 4 for this category, funds are being used for this purpose (i.e., funds are included in other categories). The data has not been collected as a separate use category in the past, but will be starting in FY 2013.

# Managed Uses

Managed Uses include a wide variety of both motorized and nonmotorized trail activities that are appropriate to recreational trails. The RTP legislation defines the term "recreational trail" as "a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes," and includes the following activities:

**A**

## Pedestrian (including Wheelchair Use)



White Clay State Park trail system,  
Delaware

**B**

## Skating or Skateboarding



© Jason Cohn

Great Allegheny Passage,  
Pennsylvania

**C**

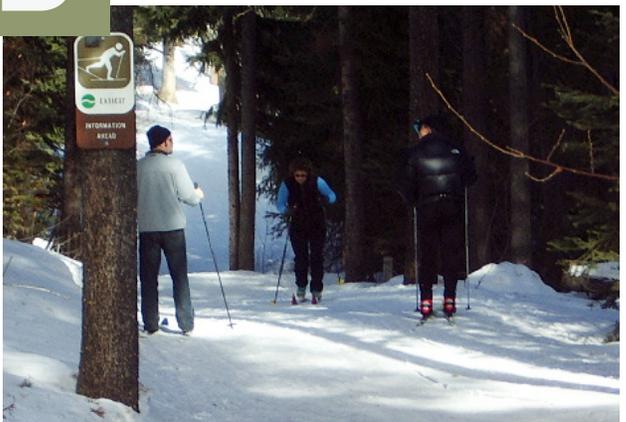
## Equestrian Activities



Mopac Equestrian Trail,  
Nebraska

**D**

## Nonmotorized Snow Trail Activities



MacDonald Pass Ski Trail System,  
Montana

# E Bicycling or Use of Other Human Powered Vehicles



**Mountain Biking**

Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway,  
Nevada



**Other Human Powered Vehicles**

Luray Hawksbill Greenway,  
Virginia



**Bicycling (on Hardened Surface Trail)**

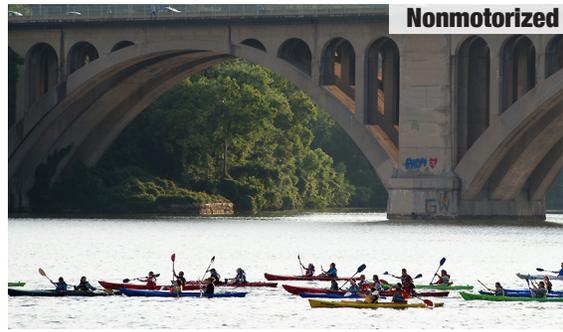
Swamp Rabbit Trail,  
South Carolina

# F Aquatic or Water Activities



**Motorized**

Potomac River Water Trail,  
DC-VA border



**Nonmotorized**

Potomac River Water Trail,  
DC-VA border

# G Motorized Vehicular Activities



**Snowmobiling**

Black Hills Snowmobile Trail System,  
South Dakota



**ATV/UTV Riding**

Shoshone Range trail system on BLM land,  
Nevada



**Motorcycling**

Lombard Trail on BLM land,  
Idaho



**4-Wheeling/Light Truck Driving**

Iron Range OHV Recreation Area,  
Minnesota



**Other Motorized**

Sacramento River National Recreation Trail,  
California



The Gitchi-Gami Trail was constructed on abandoned rights-of-way of Highway 61 along Lake Superior's North Shore, Minnesota

With over 17,000 trail projects funded, there is a vast amount of data to be made available to the public as well as trail sponsors and agency staff.

# RTP DATABASE PROJECT

Access the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Database at:

[www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org](http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org)

## Background

The goal of the RTP database project is to provide comprehensive, up-to-date project data on recreational trails projects in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

The first database of State trail projects that received funding from the Recreational Trails Program was created in 1999, and updated in 2000, by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In October 2001, FHWA and CRT entered into a three-year agreement, with the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) acting as CRT's agent, to continue the database project on a more systematic basis. As part of this effort, reports were prepared for the FHWA in March 2002, October 2002, May 2004, and April 2005.

In September 2006, FHWA approved a five-year cooperative agreement with ARC and CRT to

update the database, expand information types, and enhance its utility as an online resource. In August 2007, the first phase of a two-part data collection effort was initiated, requesting data for the years 2004-2006. The second phase, which involved asking individual states to use a Web-based application

to provide additional project information, was initiated later in 2007. States responded to one or both data-collection phases with updated information. In February 2010, a major effort to update the database was undertaken, again as part of a two-phase effort and a report was prepared.

Educational displays along the Bois D'arc Trail in Hugo Lake Park, Oklahoma



### Current Database Update Project

Data collection and validation for the RTP database is an on-going effort. Data will be regularly entered into the database as it is received from States, District of Columbia, and other sources.

In an effort to promote program transparency, FHWA seeks to know how States use RTP funds in a manner that provides sufficient information to the public without undue burden on State program administrators. Updating the RTP database is important because over 17,000 RTP projects have been completed, and there are more than 1,000 new RTP projects each year. An update to the RTP project database is making this wealth of information about trails across the country more accessible to the public.

State Trail Administrators and RTP Program Coordinators also need to be able to provide accurate and up-to-date information to agency leaders, project sponsors, elected officials, and organizations

interested in the RTP.

In 2012 FHWA contracted with KMS Enterprises, Inc. (which subcontracted with American Trails) to develop, operate, and update a searchable RTP database to be available on a website, and to provide annual reports on RTP funding. An important part of the work is assisting the States in providing project information in a timely manner to keep the database up-to-date. Data will be regularly entered into the database as it is received from States, the District of Columbia, and other sources. Photographs are also being gathered to provide good examples of trail and related facility construction and other project types.



Riding the Black Hills Snowmobile Trail System in South Dakota, which is maintained by equipment purchased with RTP funding

The wealth of data in the RTP Database provides some key insights and adds specific detail to nationwide trends with trail use and development.

# Findings

“Over 20,000 miles of new trail construction have been completed since the inception of the Recreational Trails Program.”

## RTP Database Findings

The 20 years of data on RTP-funded projects highlights the remarkable diversity of trail projects across the country. There are also some interesting facts that shed light on how the funding is benefitting people in different areas. One of the strengths of the RTP is in giving States the flexibility

to respond to the needs and interests of the public.

In July 2013, as part of updating the RTP database, State Trail Administrators were asked about their experience with requests for funding from local trail sponsors. Most striking was the fact that 81.25 percent of States responding received at least twice as much in requests for RTP grants versus available funding. State responses were:

- 6.25% - “We have more funding than requests”
- 12.5% - “Funding is about equal to requests”
- 18.75% - “We have twice as many requests as funding”
- 37.5% - “We have three times as many requests as funding”
- 15.6% - “We have four times as many requests as funding”
- 9.4% - “We have five times or more as many requests as funding”

In addition, over half of the States agreed with the statement that, "Most project applications leverage more than the required match in my State."

Nonprofit sponsors are very important in many States. On average, close to 20 percent of all projects are managed by a nonprofit, ranging from a high of 43.5 percent to a low of 3 percent. While a public agency is most commonly the project sponsor, other organizations may manage the grant and perform the actual trail work in a cooperative agreement. These are typically nonprofit groups, such as Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado or local snowmobile clubs, which provide volunteer support and donated materials. States with the highest participation by nonprofits were:

- 43.5% - Rhode Island
- 35% - Pennsylvania
- 29% - Washington
- 19% - New Jersey
- 17% - California

For types of expenditures, trail construction was the leading use of funds mentioned by State Trail Administrators. The second most popular category was trail maintenance and restoration, followed by trailside and trailhead facilities, and equipment for construction and maintenance.



Donations for trailside amenities on the Hawksbill Greenway in Luray, Virginia have exceeded \$350,000

#### Middle Run Valley Natural Area, Delaware





# National Trends

As demographics and public interests change, so does participation in outdoor recreation as well as public investment in facilities. The documentation on RTP funding highlights a number of important trends nationally.

## Accessibility

In the larger sense, accessibility is about making public lands and outdoor activities available to all Americans, regardless of age, ability, or ethnicity. A key demographic is the aging population of Baby Boomers who are maintaining a lifelong interest in fitness and outdoor recreation. These active seniors are participating in recreational activities at ages well past those in previous generations. In addition, people who are not outdoor enthusiasts are being courted by health interests who want to encourage more active living and social interaction. One result is an emphasis on trails that are easier to get to and easier to use.

## Community Trail Systems

In addition to providing recreation, trails and greenways can function as nonmotorized transportation corridors to help pedestrians and cyclists access schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. The term "active transportation" describes the efforts by cities, towns, and suburban areas to plan and build interconnected networks of trails that tie in with open spaces as well as the built environment.

A related trend is homebuilders including trail systems as part of new housing developments, just as local governments also see the benefits of trails increasing residential property values. American Trails started an awards program for developers who encourage active lifestyles, connect their trails to other pathways and destinations, and preserve and promote natural areas.

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### American Trails National Trails Awards

View the 2013 Developer Awards online

<http://goo.gl/fbmUq5>

Examples of regional trail systems linking communities that have received RTP funding include:

- The Little Sugar Creek Greenway, part of the Carolina Thread Trail, North Carolina (see more on page 36)
- Denver Metro trail system and projects along Cherry Creek, Sand Creek, and South Platte River, Colorado
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul region rail trails such as the Gateway and the Luce Line State Trails, and greenways along the Mississippi River, Rice Creek, and Rush Creek Regional Trails.
- Washington, D.C. trails network including the Georgetown Waterfront, Capital Crescent, Metropolitan Branch, and Rock Creek Trails.

### Volunteers and Youth

An outstanding feature of RTP funding is that it facilitates the use of volunteers on public lands. While people are eager to help build and maintain trails, there are many costs associated with project planning, tools, transportation, and management. The RTP helps support the efforts of nonprofit organizations that enable thousands of volunteers to contribute millions of dollars in benefits to our State and Federal lands.

The RTP funds have also been used in every State for trail projects that employ youth and conservation corps. For project sponsors, the conservation corps crews are highly productive, versatile, teachable, and cost effective. For crew members the varied experiences offer valuable lessons in working with different agencies, and learning the skills required to be quality employees. Corps organizations also work to recruit, train, and provide advancement opportunities for economically or educationally disadvantaged young adults.



### The California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The California Conservation Corps is the oldest and largest State conservation corps program in the nation. But it didn't happen overnight. Modeled after the original Federal Civilian Conservation Corps created in 1933 by President Franklin Roosevelt, today's California program was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on July 7, 1976. The young women and men of the Corps work hard protecting and restoring California's environment and responding to disasters; becoming stronger workers, citizens, and individuals through their service. The California Conservation Corps, was involved in 47 of the 355 RTP funded projects in California.



RTP funding has provided many great work and training opportunities for the CCC.

-- David Muraki, Director,  
California Conservation Corps

**The official guidance for RTP notes:** "States are encouraged to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps."

## Environmental and Safety Education

RTP funding has been used in every State for educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection. Trails and the natural areas they pass through are outdoor laboratories for schools as well as adults. For children active in natural settings, research seems to indicate a number of benefits in better understanding of the environment, as well as improvements in physical and mental health. While trails promote environmental education, it is not about advocacy. It is an educational process that teaches about economic, social, and ecological interdependence while experiencing nature and the outdoors.

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Read more about State funding for trail safety, environmental education, and training

<http://goo.gl/NfT1fg>

## Boardwalks

The provision of raised walkways across wetlands has been popular for many years. The problem has been the short lifespan and high maintenance costs of these facilities. Displacement by freezing and thawing, as well as deterioration of wood by exposure to water are the most obvious problems. More recently, improved technology has made boardwalks cost effective. Concrete foundations provide secure anchor points, and many recycled "lumber" choices make water and weather-proof materials.

Boardwalks create access for persons with disabilities, but they also allow the public to experience swamps, rain forests, lava flows, rugged rocks, dunes, and other environments where trails are difficult to build. National Wildlife Refuges and Nature Conservancy areas have been building new boardwalks as part of strategies to increase visitor awareness of habitat value, as well as to provide for birding and nature study.

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Read more about boardwalks

<http://goo.gl/jjFoqV>



## Water Trails

Information from State Trail Administrators indicates that water trails are mentioned most frequently as the trail activity on the increase. Requests for funding water trail access points and other facilities are on the rise in many States in different regions. Increasing popularity of paddling sports and water trails is encouraging new uses as well as creating economic opportunities as well. A number of States have established statewide water trail programs which assist local communities and counties in providing water access, signs, maps, and publicity. Some examples of water trails that have received RTP funding include:

- Iowa River Water Trail (49 miles) and Des Moines River Water Trail (41 miles), Iowa
- Quinebaug River Trail, Connecticut
- Pennsylvania's statewide water trails program

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Read more about examples of water trail development

<http://goo.gl/CbxWOb>

## Major bridges and elevated trails

Bridges combine historic preservation with transportation improvements, and increasingly with trail connections. Significant bridges across major rivers as well as elevated railroad structures have caught the public imagination. The High Line in New York City is the most well-known example, bringing remarkable views and unobstructed walking to a dense, traffic-clogged city.

Some important projects that have received RTP funding:

- Eads Bridge and Old Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi in St. Louis, Missouri
- Walkway over the Hudson, New York



### Walkway over the Hudson

The 120-year-old railroad bridge across the Hudson River between Poughkeepsie and Highland, New York was transformed into a linear park and trailway. It provides public access to the Hudson River's scenic landscape from the 1.25-mile rehabilitated structure 212 feet above the water. The bridge also provides important connections to an extensive network of rail-trails, parks, and communities on both sides of the river. Over a million people have visited the bridge since it was opened in 2009.

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View the Walkway over the Hudson Trail in the National Recreation Trails Database

<http://goo.gl/VzQciW>

**According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** ([www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)), there are over 1,600 rail-trails with over 20,000 miles of rail-trail spanning communities, regions, States, and the entire country. These trails continue to grow in popularity, and there are 9,000 miles of potential rail-trails waiting to be built. Over 200 of these rail-trails have benefited from RTP funding.



The Monterey Bay Coastal Trail, California was widened to safely accommodate increasing use by cyclists, walkers, and runners

**A review of RTP-funded projects reveals many benefits to the economy, employment, health, conservation, and community development.**

# Conclusions

A review of the Recreational Trails Program database shows clearly the diversity of local impacts of RTP funding. Like other Highway Trust Fund programs, the RTP provides benefits to virtually every county in the United States.



Many trail related projects would never come to fruition without RTP.

-- Amy Madigan, State Trail Administrator,  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

In particular, RTP is the foundation for State trail programs across the country. It leverages hundreds of millions of dollars of additional support from other sources for trails, encourages productive cooperation among trail users, and facilitates healthy outdoor recreation and associated, badly needed economic activity in countless communities.

There are a number of key benefits and trends that emerge from reviewing the years documented by the RTP database. While the variety of projects is highly diverse, there are some key topics that illustrate important benefits of RTP project development in every State.



## Economic stimulus

Many studies note that trails and greenways promote economic activity through direct spending as well as employment. Increased property values, tourism, and recreation-related spending on equipment, bicycles, food, and lodging are just some of the ways trails positively impact community economies. One major benefit of trail tourism is that visitors spend money in rural towns and in more economically disadvantaged areas.



For the State of West Virginia the total economic impact of the Hatfield-McCoy trail system was an increase in output of \$7,776,116, an increase in income of \$2,789,036 and the generation of 146 new jobs.

--Marshall University, Economic Impact of the Hatfield-McCoy trail system in West Virginia, 2006

## Project Example

### Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Area, West Virginia

Running for over 2,000 miles along the mountain ridges of the central Appalachian coal fields, the trails of the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area provide a fun and exciting experience for a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts.

Located in the beautiful Appalachian mountains of southern West Virginia, the area offers 400 miles of multi-use recreational trails, open all year to ATVs, motorcycles, mountain bikes, horses, and hikers. This system is one of sixteen trail systems in the country designated as a National Millennium Trail.

The Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority works in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Highways and the RTP to coordinate funding for their projects. Hatfield-McCoy has been approved for nearly \$3 million dollars in funding since 1996.

Ultimately, the trail system will extend into the adjoining regions of eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia, covering over 5 million acres. There will be no other trail system like it anywhere.

“ ”

The key to these Recreational Trails Program projects is meeting the needs of the three partners: the land manager, the State agency charged with administering the funds, and the corps. For the corps, we are looking for quality service projects to support our youth development missions. Challenging work with meaningful results for our communities and public lands has proven to be a winning recipe for our programs—from the CCC in the 1930s to modern day youth corps.

-- Jono McKinney, Montana Conservation Corps

## Youth employment

There are many examples of youth and conservation corps performing work for RTP-funded projects. These corps are State and local programs engaging primarily youth and young adults in service. Corps members receive training and mentoring, a modest stipend, and opportunities for education and career preparation. By partnering with resource and recreation providers, these young people have a chance to do important work for our public lands. Many agencies see another important benefit: nurturing a pool of potential employees who are able to step into jobs with both skill and enthusiasm.

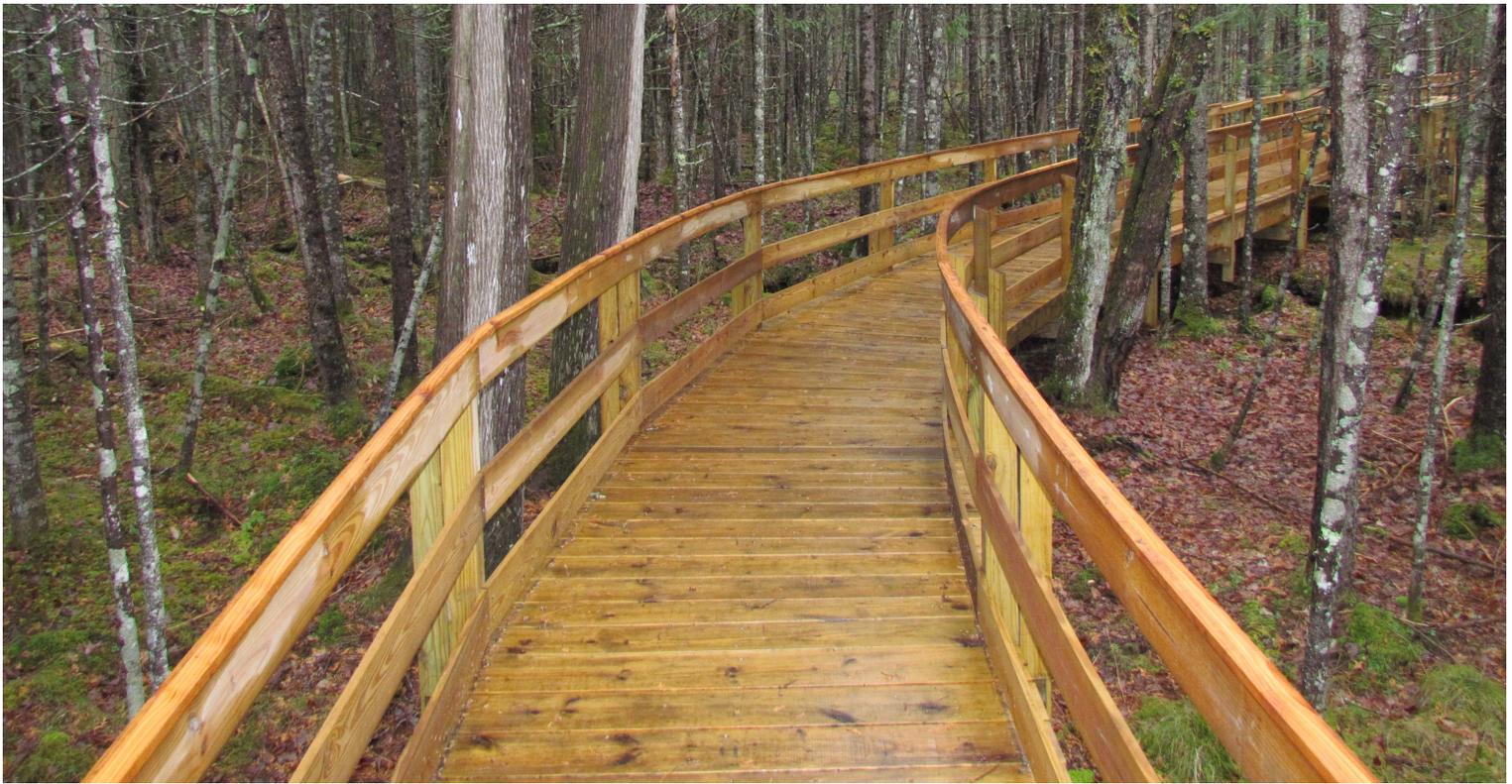


## Project Example

### Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Utah

The Bonneville Shoreline Trail is an important regional project for several Utah counties. It is planned to run for over 300 miles along the foothills bordering the main population centers of the State, from the Idaho border south to Provo and beyond.

The Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) became involved in building a technically difficult section of this long-distance trail. As a multi-agency effort, it provides a good model for how youth corps can partner in a large project. For the UCC, the trail provides a highly visible example of the kind of work it can complete. Because the trail is a regional priority with good public support, there will be years of future projects as the work progresses. In addition to continuing corps projects, several UCC members have been hired as seasonal employees by the Forest Service based on their experience in building a quality trail.



## Accessibility improvements

A long-term trend has been to make trail activities more available to all Americans. This means improving trails for persons with disabilities, but also understanding the needs of older people, families with children, and those who are new to trail activities. For managers, a more accessible and barrier free trail is easier for all trail users to enjoy, and requires less maintenance. RTP funding has been used in every State to make accessibility improvements.



Trail designers should seek opportunities to incorporate accessible features and elements, and to include trail routings that meet accessibility criteria to ensure that there are recreation opportunities for a variety of users within an overall recreational trails program.

--Recreational Trails Program Guidance (1999)

## Project Example

### Mud Pond Trail, New Hampshire

The project is in the Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge. The trail is located in the White Mountains of New Hampshire where opportunities for wheelchair accessible trails in this mountainous region are limited. Construction work was done by the Youth Conservation Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service staff and volunteers from the Randolph Mountain Club, and the Friends of Pondicherry, who contributed over 1,600 hours of volunteer time over a five summer period. The trail has a 985-foot raised boardwalk, plus a 2,165-foot turnpike section with rest stops that offer extraordinary views of a boreal forest and wetland communities. Visitors walk through a forest community uncommon to the Connecticut River Valley to a beautiful pond deep within the refuge. The State champion black spruce is found along the boardwalk.

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View the Mud Pond Trail in the National Recreation Trails Database:

<http://goo.gl/1KdwsC>

## Safe and livable communities

The San Diego County Strategic Plan asserts that, “Trails can provide a sense of place and a source of community pride. When integrated with features such as historic sites, commercial or residential areas, and parks, they can improve the overall character of a community or the region.” Trails also help in reducing crime and illegal activity through regular use and high visibility of users. Modest increases in property values near trails have also been documented.



### Project Example

#### Riverfront Trail System in Mesa County, Colorado

The Riverfront Trail system follows the Colorado River through communities, cottonwood groves, and wetlands. The Fruita Connection project links the cities of Fruita and Grand Junction, and the entire 17-mile Riverfront Trail System in Mesa County. The project is a collaboration among several cities, the county, and State agencies. In addition to RTP funding, the project is supported by local governments, donations, and Great Outdoors Colorado lottery proceeds.

“““

Mesa County continues to focus resources and funding on the Riverfront Trail for many reasons. It is an important amenity that increases quality of life for area residents—giving them access to a number of outdoor recreation activities, as well as an alternative transportation route. The trail helps make the community a more desirable place to live and to visit, while protecting open space and wildlife habitat along the river.

— Mesa County (CO) Commissioner Steve Acquafresca

## FORT MISSOULA REGIONAL PARK PRESCRIPTION TRAIL



Walking is a fun, simple and effective way to reap the many benefits of regular exercise. Rx Trails, a program of Montana State Parks and its partners, helps folks increase activity, combat obesity and enjoy the great outdoors!

### FORT MISSOULA REGIONAL PARK WALKING TRAILS

Fort Missoula Park is conveniently located adjacent to the Community Medical Center campus. The trail offers beautiful views of south Missoula and the Bitterroot Mountains, areas to enjoy youth and adult sports and quiet spots in which to relax and enjoy nature.

Distance	1.5 miles
Difficulty	Easy - flat
Trail Surface	Compacted gravel, ADA-accessible
Lighting	None
Parking	3 adjacent lots

## Health and fitness

Trails can help reduce physical and mental health risks by providing pleasant places to exercise, which help control weight, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, build strength and endurance, and help prevent depression. Public health researchers find that providing convenient access to places for physical activity, such as trails connecting to parks or other recreational facilities, increases the level of physical activity in a community.



In order to make the active solution the convenient solution, we need to recognize and utilize Montana's trails, parks, and walkways. These "pathways to health" easily pay for themselves in decreased medical costs and an increase in quality of life. People often forget about the free public land resources that already exist and how integral these natural areas are to our overall well-being.

--Beth Shumate, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

## Project Example

### Montana Trails Rx: A Prescription for a Healthy Life

The goal of Montana's "pathways to health" is to contribute to a decrease in medical costs and an increase in quality of life. This will be achieved through the development of a model prescription program to assist healthcare providers in engaging patients and increasing their levels of physical activity through walking, running, biking, or other types of physical activity.

Geographic information system (GIS) specialists will develop colorful and informational maps outlining "prescription" walking routes. As a partnership between Bike Walk Montana, MT Recreational Trails Program, the Department of Public Health & Human Services, and local Park and Recreation Departments, Trails Rx will:

- Become a model walk prescription program that can be used throughout Montana
- Help patients recognize walking as an important and free component to improve health
- Increase walking opportunities for Montanans



## Habitat conservation

Trails promote natural resource management strategies that help ensure environmental quality. The positive contributions of trails include restoring degraded stream corridors and other habitats in the process of trail building, and guiding visitors away from sensitive wildlife habitat and into more adaptable settings. RTP funding is also commonly used in projects involving acquisition of land for protection and reroutes to avoid habitat impacts. Often the environmental work is done by volunteers and conservation corps crews.

## Project Example

### Housatonic River Walk, Great Barrington, Massachusetts

The Housatonic River Walk reclaims south Berkshire County's most severely abused riverbank. Now the river is seen as a natural treasure with spectacular views and wildlife such as the bald eagle, osprey, kingfisher, egret, and great blue heron. At least 2,150 community volunteers have contributed labor for clean-up, construction, and maintenance, removing over 375 tons of debris, building the trail and planting thousands of native plants. Volunteers also removed more than ten tons of assorted household rubbish, including numerous food and beer cans, assorted shoes, and plumbing parts. Upstream, votive candle shards, plastic flowers, and slate roofing tiles were taken from behind a church. Thousands of residents and tourists visit this popular downtown site yearly and learn about simple methods of natural resource protection: native plant vegetative buffers, invasive-exotic plant control, compost soil enhancements, nonpoint source pollution controls, local nontoxic trail materials, and permeable trail surfaces.



## Active Transportation

A significant amount of RTP funding is helping build transportation networks in cities across America. The term "active transportation" refers to bicycling, walking, and other nonmotorized transportation modes. Often these trail and sidewalk networks are well integrated with public transit. Active transportation networks can also enhance recreation, and people will use attractive and safe trails as a way to get to work, school, or shopping instead of driving to the gym. Trails can be both efficient modes of transportation as well as linear parks and habitat corridors.



The Charlotte region has embraced a vision to connect regional destinations, rural towns, urban cores, open spaces, and natural areas with trails, greenways, and blueways. Community, government, and business leaders alike wanted to help conserve green space, encourage people to explore the outdoors, attract visitors, and provide alternative transportation options for one of the fastest growing regions in our country.

--Carmen Bray, The Carolina Thread Trail

## Project Example

### Little Sugar Creek Greenway, North Carolina

The project is a linear park and stream restoration project in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The Little Sugar Creek Greenway is located in the heart of Uptown Charlotte and connects trail users to businesses, restaurants, parks, and natural areas along a 6-mile area of the now restored Little Sugar Creek. The creek was once listed as one of the most polluted waterways in North Carolina. The project overpasses and underpasses obstacles to facilitate unimpeded walking and biking. When completed it will consist of twenty miles of paved trails and walkways through the Charlotte urban area.

**Commitment and support started from the top with former Mayor Anthony Foxx, now U.S. Transportation Secretary.** He promoted a vision and advocated for policies to make the city more pedestrian and bike friendly to help attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. This trail represents the central segment of a 140-mile north-south spine trail. The Little Sugar Creek Greenway will be a key part of the Carolina Thread Trail, a regional network of trails that will ultimately pass through 15 counties. The Thread has received national attention as a model initiative to promote walkable, bikable, and sustainable communities.



Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crews daily climbed up to 2,600 vertical feet to reach work sites on the Mount Yale Trail in Colorado

# Annual Achievement Awards for RTP-funded Projects

Read more about the Annual Achievement Awards and see details of the many projects that have been recognized since 2000:

<http://www.americantrails.org/rtp/crtawards.html>

## About CRT

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations, hosts an annual achievement awards program to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program. The winners are recognized each year in Washington, DC during the American Recreation Coalition's Great Outdoors Week in early June. The awards are part of the Coalition's ongoing effort to build awareness of RTP accomplishments. Award winners are selected from projects nominated by public agencies, State administrators, organizations, or project sponsors.

## CRT National Members

- All-Terrain Vehicle Association
- American Council of Snowmobile Associations
- American Hiking Society
- American Horse Council
- American Motorcyclist Association
- American Recreation Coalition
- American Trails
- Americans for Responsible Recreational Access
- Back Country Horsemen of America
- Bikes Belong
- BlueRibbon Coalition
- The Corps Network
- Equine Land Conservation Resource
- International Association of Snowmobile Administrators
- International Mountain Bicycling Association
- International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
- Motorcycle Industry Council
- National Association of State Park Directors
- National Association of State Trail Administrators
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council
- National Recreation and Park Association
- Partnership for the National Trails System
- Professional Trail Builders Association
- Public Lands Service Coalition
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
- Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
- SnowSports Industries America
- Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
- Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
- Sports and Fitness Industry Association
- Student Conservation Association
- Tread Lightly!
- United Four Wheel Drive Associations

## Award categories

**Maintenance & Rehabilitation:** maintaining, repairing damage to, or upgrading the quality of a trail.

**Construction & Design:** planning and building a trail, portions of a trail, or trail-related facilities.

**Education & Communication:** enhancing trail use and enjoyment through increased environmental awareness, promotion of safety, and encouragement of trail-related outdoor recreation.

**Multiple-Use Management & Corridor Sharing:** facilitating and/or encouraging the use of a trail corridor by more than one type of trail enthusiast, particularly those enthusiasts that do not ordinarily share trails or trail-related facilities.

**Environment & Wildlife Compatibility:** enhancing the protection of wildlife and/or the general environment as part of trail development and use.

**Accessibility Enhancement:** facilitating and/or encouraging increased access to trail-related recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

**Youth Conservation/Service Corps:** making effective use of the services and skills of qualified youth conservation or service corps to construct and/or maintain trails.

**State Trail Program Award:** managing Recreational Trails Program projects and grants effectively.

**State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Award:** serves as an effective voice for trails and project sponsors in State policies and programs.

## About the Coalition for Recreational Trails

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) members work together to build awareness and understanding of the RTP. CRT was formed in 1992 following the passage of the ISTEA to ensure that the National Recreational Trails Fund (now known as the RTP) established by that legislation received adequate funding. During the six years of ISTEA, CRT worked to ensure that program was continued and strengthened as part of the ISTEA reauthorization process.

Following the enactment of TEA-21 in 1998 and SAFETEA-LU in 2005, both of which increased RTP funding, the CRT focused its efforts on supporting the continued, effective implementation of the RTP. CRT efforts supported continuing the program under MAP-21 with a set-aside of funding up to \$84.1 million for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

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Learn more about the Coalition for Recreational Trails at:

<http://www.funoutdoors.com/coalitions/crt>

Coalition for Recreational Trails Co-Chairs, Marianne Fowler (first on left) and Derrick Crandall (first on right), along with Gloria Shepherd, Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment, and Realty, Federal Highway Administration (second from left), present Annual Achievement Awards to winners from the Districts of West Virginia U.S. Representative Nick Rahall (third from left) and Wisconsin U.S. Representative Tom Petri (third from right)



“ In 25 years, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has evolved from an idea to an invaluable means to support trail development and maintenance across America. Support for the program from all trail interests persuaded the Congress to reauthorize it nearly unchanged in 2012 through MAP-21 – surprising many. But it didn’t surprise us. More than 20,000 trail projects have been aided by RTP’s use of federal fuel tax receipts generated by nonhighway recreational activities. These projects serve millions. And the legacy of the RTP program is still greater. It has united equestrians and cyclists, hikers and snowmobilers, ATV enthusiasts and more around programs which meet the trail needs of the nation. It has inspired trail community volunteerism and contributions that help the nation connect with our Great Outdoors and be healthier, physically and mentally. RTP-aided trails support sustainable communities, attracting visitors and helping share stories about our land and our history.

The RTP has a bright future. Strong support from dozens of national organizations and the good work of state and local agencies and trail enthusiasts give the program bipartisan support among America’s elected leaders.

Marianne Fowler  
Co-Chair  
Coalition for Recreational Trails

Derrick Crandall  
Co-Chair  
Coalition for Recreational Trails



2012 CRT Award Winner  
**Maintenance and Rehabilitation**

**Lombard Trail (Idaho)**

The primary work of this project, originally known as the Bayhorse Trail Connector, consisted of converting a network of user-created motorcycle trails and jeep roads into a designated ATV trail linking the town of Challis, Idaho to the Bayhorse Townsite, a mining ghost-town that has been converted into a “history park” and OHV trailhead by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.



**Sponsor/Partner:** BLM/Challis Field Office; Great Basin Institute; Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation

2012 CRT Award Winner  
**Construction and Design – Local**

**Chattahoochee Nature Trails (Florida)**

The City of Chattahoochee is a small rural community of 5,445, nestled on the majestic river bluffs along the beautiful Apalachicola River in north Florida. As part of its efforts to enhance eco-tourism opportunities that could provide increased economic activity, the City decided to upgrade trails in a local park. The completed project, which used \$95,145 in 2008 RTP funds and matched it with \$63,430 more, involves three trails and a new trailhead within the park’s trail system.



**Sponsor/Partner:** City of Chattahoochee

2012 CRT Award Winner  
**Construction and Design - Long Distance**

**Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway (Nevada)**

The Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway is a long-term project to create a 116-mile bike-ped trail along the entire length of the Truckee River, from Lake Tahoe (California side) to Pyramid Lake, Nevada.



**Sponsor/Partner:** Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

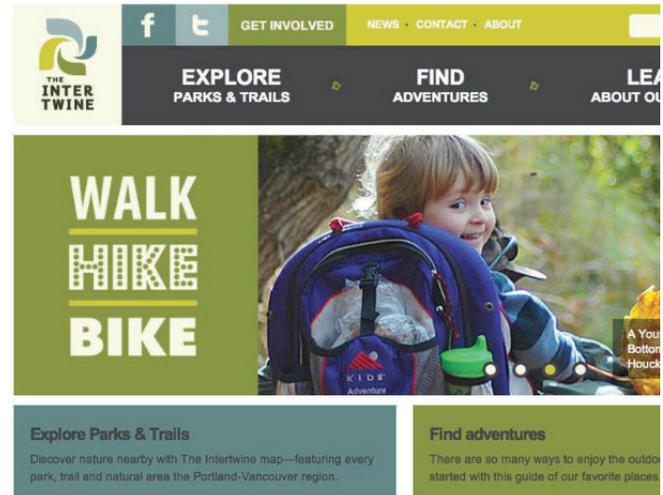
The Federal Highway Administration presented the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway with an Environmental Excellence award: <http://goo.gl/W0vVCh>

2012 CRT Award Winner  
Education and Communication

## Intertwine Alliance Bi-State Regional Trails Website (Oregon-Washington)

The residents of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region have a fun new interactive tool to connect to nature — [www.theintertwine.org](http://www.theintertwine.org). This single portal to nature around the region is a “one-stop shop” that provides comprehensive information on the region’s trails and outdoor destinations.

Sponsor/Partner: The Intertwine Alliance



2012 CRT Award Winner  
Multiple-Use Management & Corridor Sharing

## Kwoh Butte Shelter (Oregon)

In 2008, a Recreational Trails Program grant for \$49,862 was secured to demolish the old shelter and construct a new shelter. This grant was enhanced by the cooperation between OHV groups, who would use the shelter in the summer, and snowmobile groups, who would access the shelter in the winter months.

Sponsor/Partner: Deschutes National Forest



2012 CRT Award Winner  
Environment and Wildlife Compatibility

## Swords Park Trail (Montana)

The trail project included environmental rehabilitation as well as interpretive signs for the natural resources along the Rimrocks. With increased use of the trail, more people are the “eyes and ears” to help protect the area. New life has come to the park as the native vegetation has been restored, which also protects the wildlife.

Sponsor/Partner: City of Billings



2012 CRT Award Winner  
Accessibility Enhancement

## The Children's Center's Life Trails and Therapeutic Park (Oklahoma)

A unique "barriers" trail is helping patients at the Children's Center learn to maneuver on and around common barriers in a safe environment. The trail is one part of a larger project, for now called "The Children's Center Park," which will provide strategic areas for therapy, education, and relaxation to patients and their families.

Sponsor/Partner: The Children's Center



2012 CRT Award Winner  
Use of Youth Conservation/Service Corps

## Mount Yale Trail Realignment (Colorado)

In 2009, the Pike and San Isabel National Forests received a Colorado State Trails Grant for \$170,075 in RTP funds to realign a poorly located user-created climbing route on the ascent to the 14,196 foot summit of Mount Yale. The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps spent 1,200 crew days inspiring young adults to make a difference in themselves and their communities.



Sponsor/Partner: Pike and San Isabel National Forests/Salida Ranger District; Colorado Fourteeners Initiative; Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado; Colorado College; Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

“““

The Recreational Trails Program has been instrumental in not only helping mountain bikers get trails on the ground but also in putting tools in the hands of volunteers. Additionally RTP is key in providing the education and skills to build trails that are light on the land, sustainable and fun. Although, one of the best success stories of the RTP is how it has brought together motorized and nonmotorized trail users. With a common goal we are working more closely than ever.

--Kristy Kibler, Policy Coordinator, International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA); and a Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) Vice-Chair

In many areas of the country the RTP is the foundation on which trail-based recreation, both motorized and nonmotorized, rests and it is arguably the most important government program ever created to benefit motorized recreation.

--Duane Taylor, Director, Federal Affairs, Motorcycle Industry Council; and a Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) Vice-Chair

2012 CRT Award Winner

## Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee

### Illinois Greenways & Trails Council

The Illinois Greenways & Trails Council is the State's official RTP State Trails Advisory Board. Council members include all major Statewide trail user organizations, including biking, equestrian, hiking, OHV, snowmobiling, mountain biking, and paddling. Statewide associations representing local agencies that acquire, develop, and manage trails, such as the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts, also serve on the Council.

When significant RTP funding became available in 1996, the Council spent considerable time discussing how to mesh RTP funding with existing State and Federal trail and related funding programs. The Council also helped develop Illinois' RTP priorities, grant project eligibility criteria, and grant project evaluation criteria.

2012 CRT Award Winner

## Outstanding State Trail Program

### Tennessee Greenways and Trails Program

Tennessee's State trails program manages RTP projects and grants effectively, and ensures that all trails interests are treated fairly in administration of its programs and policies. The Tennessee Greenways and Trails Coordinator works with all types of trail user groups and local, State, and Federal agencies in the promotion and development of trails across the State.

Demonstrating **excellence in financial accountability**, Tennessee works closely with the Tennessee division office of the Federal Highway Administration to obligate RTP funds in a timely manner. RTP Administration funds are also used to hold the Statewide bi-annual Tennessee Greenways and Trails Forum. Educational funds are to provide publications such as the "Pathways for Trail Building" booklet, and make bulk purchases of other key trail resources for trail construction workshops across the State.

“”

RTP is the glue that helps connect trail systems in state parks and other outdoor spaces all across America. Smaller communities may not be able to fund a trail spur. Some trail projects involve multiple organizations and can be a challenge to coordinate and fund. These obstacles can often be overcome and leveraged using available dollars with RTP. RTP builds trails that wouldn't get built any other way. That's how you foster strong partnerships and put together a diverse and vibrant trail system. Whether your trail is for fun or active transportation, RTP can make it happen for state parks and communities throughout the country.

--Bill Bryan, Director, Missouri State Parks; Legislative Committee Chair, National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD)



# 2013

# RTP Annual Report Resources

For more information on many topics related to RTP funding as well as technical resources on trails of all types, see the following resources.

## Recreational Trails Program

Recreational Trails Program Database: <http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org>

The Recreational Trails Program website for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

FHWA guidance and policies for RTP: [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/)

For policies and funding in every State, see the State RTP Administrators List to find program contacts and websites:  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/rtpstate.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/rtpstate.cfm)

The Coalition for Recreational Trails gives awards each year for outstanding projects funded through State RTP grants:  
<http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRTawards.html>

## Accessible trails

FHWA guidance to provide best practices for trail accessibility, and trail design, construction, and maintenance:  
[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/accessibility\\_guidance/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/accessibility_guidance/)

USDA Forest Service trail and outdoor facility accessibility guidelines: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/>

More resources on accessible trails: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html>

## Resources for trail planning, development, and management

For many resources on trail planning, design, construction, management, accessibility, funding, training, for both motorized and nonmotorized trails, see the National Trails Training Partnership Resources & Library:  
<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html>

Trail management and maintenance: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/index.html>

Trail user protection, safety, and risk management: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/safety/index.html>

Trail training resources: <http://www.americantrails.org/ntp/default.htm>

Online calendar of trail training and education opportunities: <http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html>

## Youth and Conservation Corps

A guide to transportation funding programs for service and conservation corps: Conservation Corps and Transportation: Making the Connection (pdf 1.7 mb) <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/CorpsandTransportation.pdf>

More about opportunities with Corps nationwide at The Corps Network: <http://www.corpsnetwork.org>



# 2013

# RTP Annual Report Photo Credits

Credits are listed in order by page, top left to bottom right.

## Front Cover

- Santa Fe Rail Trail, New Mexico - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Mount Yale, Colorado - Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
- Sweetser Switch Trail, Indiana - Town of Sweetser, Indiana
- Beaman Park Accessible and Interpretive Trail, Tennessee - Friends of Beaman Park

## Inside Cover

- Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada

## Table of Contents

- White Clay State Park in Delaware - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails

## Executive Summary

- Tennessee River Park, Tennessee - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Lena Lake National Recreation Trail, Washington - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails

## Funding and Administration

- Iron Range OHV Recreation Area, Minnesota - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division
- Fisher Towers Trail, Utah - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails

## Permissible Uses

- Rubicon Trail, California - California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Mt. Yale, Colorado - Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
- Penny Lake Trail, Maine - Boothbay Region Land Trust
- Northern Erie Sno-Seekers Trail Grooming, New York - Northern Erie Sno-Seekers, Inc.
- Swords Park Trail, City of Billings, Montana - City of Billings, MT
- Redbird State Recreation Area - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Trail Assessment for Sustainability and Accessibility, Florida - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails
- School Messaging Safety and Environmental Education, Minnesota - Coalition for Recreational Trail Users
- Wisconsin State Trails Council - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

## Managed Uses

- White Clay State Park trail system, Delaware - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Allegheny Trail Passage, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - © Jason Cohn
- Mopac Equestrian Trail, Nebraska - Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Omaha, Nebraska
- MacDonald Pass ski trail system, Montana - Last Chance Nordic Club
- Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada - Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
- Luray Hawksbill Greenway in Luray, Virginia - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville, SC - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Potomac River Water Trail, DC/Virginia, 2 photos - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Black Hills snowmobile trail system, South Dakota - Chad Coppess, South Dakota Department of Tourism
- Shoshone Range Trail, Nevada - Nevada Division of State Parks
- Iron Range OHV Recreation Area, Minnesota - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division

## Managed Uses (continued)

- Sacramento River Trail, California - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Lombard Trail on BLM land, Idaho - Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office

## RTP Database

- Gitchi-Gami Trail, Minnesota - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails Division
- Hugo Lake State Park, Oklahoma, 3 photos - Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

## Findings

- Black Hills snowmobile trail system, South Dakota - Chad Coppess, South Dakota Department of Tourism
- Luray Hawksbill Greenway, Virginia - Christie Jackson for American Trails
- Northern Delaware Greenway Trail, Delaware - Delaware State Parks
- French Broad River Greenway, North Carolina - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- CCC Crew at Work - Backcountry Horsemen of America
- Des Moines River NRT, Iowa - U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Saylorville Lake
- Walkway over the Hudson, New York, 2 photos - David Rocco

## Conclusions

- Monterey Bay Coastal Trail, California - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Area, West Virginia - Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority
- Student Conservation Corps (SCA) Young Urban Trail Builders - Student Conservation Corps
- Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Utah - Sean Damitz, Utah Conservation Corps
- Mud Pond Trail, New Hampshire - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Riverfront trail system, Colorado - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Fort Missoula Regional Park, Montana - Montana Trails Rx
- Housatonic River Walk, Massachusetts - Great Barrington Land Conservancy
- Little Sugar Creek Greenway, North Carolina - Carolina Thread Trail

## CRT Awards

- Mt. Yale, Colorado - Colorado Fourteeners Initiative
- Coalition for Recreational Trails Annual Awards - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Lake Wobegon Regional Trail, Minnesota - Chuck Wocken
- Diana Bend Conservation Area, Missouri - Missouri Department Of Conservation
- Superior Hiking Trail, Minnesota - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails
- Lombard Trail, Idaho - Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office
- Chattahoochee Nature Trails, Florida - City of Chattahoochee
- Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada - Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
- Intertwine Alliance Bi-State Regional Trails Website, Oregon-Washington - The Intertwine Alliance
- Kwoh Butte Shelter, Oregon - Deschutes National Forest
- Swords Park Trail, Montana - City of Billings
- The Children's Center's Life Trails and Therapeutic Park, Oklahoma - The Children's Center
- Mount Yale Trail Realignment, Colorado - Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

## Resources, Photo Credits, and Technical Assistance

- Robinson Creek Trail, Washington - Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
- Mopac Equestrian Trail - Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Omaha, NE
- Clear Creek Trail, Colorado - Stuart Macdonald for American Trails



# 2013

# RTP Annual Report

## Technical Assistance and Acknowledgements

### Technical Assistance

#### Technical Questions?

Call the number or send an email to the address below.

RTP Database Technical Assistance Section  
American Trails  
P.O. Box 491797  
Redding, CA 96049-1797  
(530) 547-2060  
support@recreationaltrailsinfo.org

#### Website issues:

webmaster@recreationaltrailsinfo.org

### Acknowledgements

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Database project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program. The contractor for the RTP Database project and this Annual Report is KMS Enterprises, Inc., with American Trails as its subcontractor.



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1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 200-J  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
(301) 429-5155  
sharon.graves@kmscorp.com

**KMS Enterprises, Inc.** ([www.kmscorp.com](http://www.kmscorp.com)) is a management consulting company with two (2) core business areas: information technology and logistics. KMS has provided consulting services to multiple Federal Government agencies for more than 18 years. They were awarded the multi-year prime contract by Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration to develop and maintain the RTP website and database on September 27, 2012.

**American Trails** ([www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)) is a national nonprofit organization that has been working for over 25 years on behalf of all trail interests, both nonmotorized and motorized. American Trails strives to enrich the quality of life for Americans of all ages and abilities by advancing the development and enjoyment of quality trails.



#### Recreational Trails Program Annual Report Team

RTP Project Oversight ~ Christopher Douwes, Community Planner, Federal Highway Administration  
RTP Database Program Manager ~ Sharonlyne A. Graves, Vice President, KMS Enterprises, Incorporated  
RTP Database Subcontract Manager ~ Pam Gluck, Executive Director, American Trails  
Website Design and Development ~ Jonathan LeClere, KMS Enterprises, Incorporated  
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Design and Production ~ Mike Bullington, American Trails  
Researcher/Communications Coordinator ~ Afton Kelly, American Trails

Recreational Trails Program Database Website:  
[www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org](http://www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org)

Technical Questions?  
Call the number or send an email to the address below.

RTP Database Technical Assistance Section  
American Trails  
P.O. Box 491797  
Redding, CA 96049-1797  
(530) 547-2060  
[support@recreationaltrailsinfo.org](mailto:support@recreationaltrailsinfo.org)

Website issues?  
Write to [webmaster@recreationaltrailsinfo.org](mailto:webmaster@recreationaltrailsinfo.org).



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration