

RTP State Trail Program Achievement Award

2021 Nomination Form

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), a federation of the nation's leading trail-related organizations and advocates, is pleased to announce its **2021 Tom Petri Annual State Trail Program Achievement Award** to recognize the nation's outstanding State Trails Program for 2021. The award specifically recognizes effective use of the national Recreational Trails Program (RTP) administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

CRT plans to hold the awards ceremony in September 2021. The very successful 2020 awards program was virtual (<https://www.americantrails.org/communications/awards/crtAwards>). CRT hopes to return to an in-person format in the future but is now anticipating a hybrid event for 2021, partly in-person and partly virtual. We will include virtual and pre-recorded video elements in the ceremony – even if we meet face-to-face! Special guests, including Members of Congress will once again be invited to participate in the celebration.

For more information on CRT and the awards program visit www.rectrails.org.

Applications will be reviewed by the Awards Committee of the National Association of State Park Directors and confirmed by CRT's board of directors.

Self-nominations are encouraged, but nominations by public officials and trail community leaders are also invited.

The on-line nomination form, including any supporting materials and pictures, should be completed by 5 pm EST, June 30, 2021.

Please direct all questions to the Chair of the Coalition's Awards Committee: Duane Taylor, Executive Director, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, at coalitionforrectrails@gmail.com. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call him at (703) 582-1202 or send him an e-mail. Winners should be notified no later than July 31, 2021.

Information on each award will be featured on the website of American Trails. In addition, photos and other materials submitted as part of the nomination become eligible for use by CRT and are often utilized to highlight RTP programs in the Federal Highway Administration Annual Report, CRT's Facebook page, and in the online RTP Database image gallery. As a result, simply nominating a State Program may result in increased exposure for your state!

We hope you will join us in this important effort to recognize the significant contributions to trail-related recreation that the Recreational Trails Program is supporting across the country

Sincerely,
The Coalition for Recreational Trails

State Program Name *

Contact Information for State Trail Program Nominee

Name: *

First Name Last Name

Phone Number:

Area Code Phone Number

E-mail Address: *

example@example.com

Address:

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Contact information for person submitting nomination (if different than above)

Name:

First Name Last Name

Phone Number:

Area Code

Phone Number

E-mail Address:

example@example.com

Address:

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

RTP State Trail Program Description

Please describe how the nominated state trail program meets the criteria laid out in the questions below.

How does the State ensure that RTP information is easily accessible, including project applications, evaluation criteria, project selections, and project status?

How does the State demonstrate excellence in financial accountability through effective cost control, high reimbursement rates, success in audits, etc?

How does the State ensure that projects are completed in a timely manner, and then closed out?

How does the State demonstrate a fair, open, and transparent project solicitation and selection process?

How does the State treat all major user groups fairly: motorized and nonmotorized; if applicable, snow and nonsnow?

How does the State ensure the selection of exemplary projects?

How does the State ensure effective communication with all trail, environmental, and outdoor interests?

Please explain the approach taken by this State toward ensuring a high rate of obligation of Federal-aid funds (see https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/funding/apportionments_obligations/ecfunds_resc.cfm). A lower obligation rate with high-quality completed projects may be preferable to a higher obligation rate with low-quality or incomplete projects.

How does the State use administrative and educational funds creatively and effectively?

How does the State demonstrate active coordination with other Federal and State agencies and programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State trail programs, and related transportation programs (nonmotorized transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program, safe routes to school, scenic byway activities, and if applicable, the Federal Lands Highway Program)?

Permission for Use of Photography *

Please indicate your acceptance by putting your name, organization (if appropriate), and the date in the field above. *IMPORTANT* In submitting your nomination, you are granting permission to use the photographs or other supporting materials provided to the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) as part of the Annual Achievement Award nominations to promote the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Uses may include, but are not limited to the following purposes: promoting the RTP projects in the RTP Database, Image Library, and websites; in the RTP Annual Report; in press releases; or for educational purposes, such as, in presentations. Credit will be provided to the photographer when identification of the photographer is provided. You retain all other rights to your photos, and any requests for additional non-commercial uses or for commercial use will be provided to you for approval or not. Please let us know if you do not want your photos used to promote the RTP. Your help in documenting the benefits of the Recreational Trails Program is greatly appreciated.

Reaching out to U.S. Senators and Representatives in support of your RTP project

It is important that Members of Congress know about the outstanding RTP-supported programs in their districts/states. Please forward your nomination materials to the Members who represent the state. Include a short message (sample draft below) about yourself and your organization noting that the nomination materials were prepared for the annual Coalition for Recreational Trails Achievement Awards and asking that the Member provide a letter of support for the nomination.

If you are not sure who the correct U.S. Representative is, please visit the following website to search by zip code:

<http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep?ZIP=>

To find your state's U.S. Senators visit:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

You may need to contact the Member's office by phone to ask for the appropriate e-mail address to send the materials. Since the RTP is funded through transportation reauthorization legislation, you may ask for the Legislative Assistant that handles transportation issues.

Sample Message:

Dear (Senator/Representative) last name:

Please find attached the nomination materials for our state's ability to effectively utilized Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. These materials have been prepared by (insert title, club or agency affiliation) because the (insert your State) State Trail Program has proven to be a huge success and, as a result, we have nominated the State for an annual Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) achievement award for outstanding RTP State Trail Programs. Please join us in supporting this nomination by sending a letter of support to CRT.

(Provide information and background about your State trail program)

Thank you for taking a look at the nomination materials. A letter of support for (insert State trail program) can be sent to: Duane Taylor, Coalition for Recreational Trails, via email to coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Thank you for submitting your award nomination. Winners should be notified no later than July 31, 2021.

Total RTP Funding Received in 2020

Do not include \$ symbol or comma separator and only enter whole dollar amounts