National Trails Training Partnership

Your resource for trails training
What is NTTP?

NATIONAL TRAILS TRAINING PARTNERSHIP:
A forum of diverse trail organizations and agencies whose mission is to improve opportunities for training for the nationwide trails community.
Need for trail skills training

- Increasing visitation while budgets decline
- Skills lost as experienced staff retire
- Increasing reliance on volunteers
- Cost and difficulty of travel for training
- Reliance on the internet for information
GOALS of NTTP

- Encourage cooperation on training efforts
- Develop a clearinghouse of training and resources at [www.TrailsTraining.net](http://www.TrailsTraining.net)
- Identify needs and gaps in existing training
- Promote research to improve trails education
- Facilitate training needed
- Promote models for statewide training
- Help States bring training to local project sponsors
NTTP is a partnership of every Federal land management agency and national trails and outdoor recreation organizations.

Funding from:
- Federal Highway Admin.
- USDA Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Coordination and website development by:
- American Trails
Partnerships

*Training providers who are NTTP partners:*

- Businesses and trail contractors
- Conservation and ethics groups
- Local and state trail groups
- National trail organizations
- State trails programs
- State park and recreation associations
- Service and conservation corps
- ...and many other partners
Developing and sharing training

- Working with Kim Frederick on economic benefits of training for states and a workshop on “Creating a State Trails Training Program”

- Hosting workshops on Greenways and Trails Forum for Development Professionals, and Trail Crew Leadership Training
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Promoting Training

- eNewsletter for training
- Networking with groups & agencies
- Highlighting new education opportunities
- Promoting training by partners
Online training clearinghouse

Finding and promoting trail-related training nationwide

- Calendar of training opportunities
- Database of training providers and experts
- Redesigned website and improved navigation
- Page for training resources for each State
- Trail skills matched with training available
Calendar

- Online training events calendar
- Searchable online database
- Connect with training providers
- Promote local training events
National Trails Training Partnership

Find trails training:
Looking for a class or conference?
Check the Online Calendar of training opportunities. Have a course to publicize? Contact us and we’ll include it.

Trail Training Ideas for 2009:
Working Smarter. Take advantage of the many opportunities to learn new skills, enhance your career, get volunteers trained, and build better trails!

Browse hundreds of resources:
Read articles on every trails topic, search current research papers, and find new ideas and solutions for trail planning, building, maintenance, and management.

Training in your state:
Find training providers and resources in state-by-state indexes. Let us know what we’re missing!

National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP) is an alliance of Federal agencies, training providers, nationwide supporters, professional contractors, and providers of products and services.
- Visit the online calendar of trainings
- Access hundreds of trail-related resources
- Read the news
- Learn how you can help

NTTP Resources
- Who we are
- Featured training
- Training by state
- Calendar
- Search the training database

More Resources
- Bibliography
- Quotations
- Glossary
- Acronyms
- Tools
- Cool trail solutions
- Trailbuilding
- Wildlife and trails
- Planning
- Maintenance
- Volunteers
- Products & services
Hosted by AmericanTrails.org

The world’s largest online resource for planning, building, funding, managing, and supporting trails and greenways
Resources and Library

- Information clearinghouse
- Hundreds of articles sorted by topic
- Adding new topics as needed
- The “Library of Congress” for trails and greenways
Resources by topic

Bridges and Structures

National Trails Training Partnership

Resources and Library: Bridges & Structures for Trails
Hosted by AmericanTrails.org

Resources for building major structures for trails and greenways: bridges, boardwalks, overpasses, and tunnels. Includes trailhead facilities such as restrooms. Also see the "Creative Crossings" area on trail bridges.

Tunnels
- Tunnels on trails: A study of 78 tunnels on 36 trails in the United States -- or download the PDF file

Boardwalks
- San Dieguito Boardwalk community service project
- Shenandoah River State Park, VA develops a boardwalk
- Towpath Trail in South Akron includes a floating section that runs a third of a mile
- Boardwalks for accessible trails and nature walks: photo gallery
- Boardwalks along Little Bear Creek through environmentally sensitive areas
- Boardwalk on Happy Creek Nature Trail, WA

On this page:
- Tunnels | Bridges | Boardwalks | Facilities | Backcountry

More Trailbuilding Resources
- Trail construction
- Consultants & services
- Cool Trail Solutions photo galleries
- Accessible trails and ADA
- Bicycle/pedestrian facilities
- Bridges and boardwalks
- Structures, tunnels, overpasses

Bridges
- Big Sandy Bridge Team includes National Guard and volunteers in San Joaquin Gorge, CA
- New Ravenway Bridge spans the scenic Colorado River in Moab, Utah
- Junction Bridge provides new trail link across Arkansas River in Little Rock
- The Missouri River Pedestrian Bridge in Omaha is 256 feet long with pylons 266 feet high
- Highway extension evolves into creative bridge project
- Creative Crossings: innovative trail bridge and overpass designs showcased at the 2004 National...
Resources by topic
Horses and Equestrian Trails

Resources and Library:
Horses and Equestrian Trails
Hosted by AmericanTrails.org

Riding horses on trails is a traditional activity that is part of our trail heritage. This area covers planning, design, maintenance and management of equestrian trails. Advocacy and stewardship for horse trails, along with environmental issues, are also included.

Advocacy

- Trail horse users: a perspective on progress: by Dr. Gene W. Wood
- The History of Horse Trails: the fight for trails across America, by Denise Maxwell
- The American Spirit: A Cultural Heritage With The Horse, by Kandee Haertel
- Developing the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource
- Cardinal Greenway Equestrian Trail hosts Indiana’s largest horse trail fund raising event

Publications

- Review of Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design, Construction, and Maintenance by Dr. Gene W. Wood

More Resources

- Trail Management and Design
- Planning trails and greenways
- Advocacy for trails
- Consultants & services
- Federal Land Management
- Report Equestrian Trail Closures or Access Issues on Federal Land

Impacts

- Land Ethics for Equestrian Trail Users: by Dr. Gene Wood
- Equestrian Trails and Conservation Awareness is a website addressing natural resource conservation issues for recreational horse trail riders
- Horses in Ecological Reserves: perceptions, impacts, and guidelines
- Stay Off the Trails During Mud Season
- Recreational Horse Trails and Water Quality Protection
- Environmental Aspects of Horses on Trails, by Adda Quinn, EnviroHorse
- Diseases of Humans and Horses (Zoonosis): health and water impacts
Safe Trails Forum

User safety
- Anchorage “Trail Watch” makes trails safer for users
- Characteristics of Emerging Road and Trail Users and Their Safety (pdf 80 mb)
- Review: Shattered Air: A True Account of Catastrophe and Courage on Yosemite’s Half Dome
- Fatal Bicycle Collision on Denver Area Trail
- Riders and hikers encouraged to “Use Trails, Not Rails”
- Trail Incident Report form from Michigan Mountain Bike Association and National Mountain Bike Patrol (pdf 20 kb)
- Rail trails and safe communities (pdf 593 kb)
- ATC Backcountry Sanitation Manual covers human waste management in the backcountry (pdf 1.4mb)

Management
- Where rails cross trails: the safety solution: Grade crossing of a trail in Baldwin, FL uses typical highway railroad crossing; by Craig Della Penna
- Rails-with-Trails: A Preliminary Assessment of Safety and Grade Crossings, November 2005 (pdf 1.4mb)
- Recreational Path Intersection Safety: using the Cross Alert System
- Better park design can prevent crime
- Operations, Maintenance, and Stewardship 101
- More articles and resources on managing and maintaining trails and greenways

In the news
- All about the Safe Trails Forum
- Denver Metro Area Multi-Use Trail Safety Forum
- Trail Safety Forum Notes, April 2006
- We invite you to submit your ideas and experiences with safety, crime, liability, and related issues to American Trails.

Do you find the resources on our website valuable? Then please join American Trails today to support the work we do to keep you on the cutting-edge!

Updated July 23, 2006
Research

Identifying resources, new ideas, and needs in priority areas:

- Cost effective sustainable trails
- Creative accessibility solutions
- Improving skills for staff and volunteers
- Safety and liability
- Benefits of trails
- Technology
Cool Trail Solutions

Photos of solutions to typical trail problems

Resources and Library:
Cool Trail Solutions
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Dual tread trails: multiple use aided by multiple pathways
Trails with two adjacent or parallel treadways, often with different surfaces. While it is an axiom of trail planning that we can’t afford to provide a separate trail for everyone, sometimes it makes sense to have two treads in the same corridor. The examples are from a variety of geographic areas, primarily urban greenways. Where there is a significant amount of bicycle as well as pedestrian traffic, the paving is often extended to 10 or 12 feet wide. Another solution is to provide an adjacent tread of crushed rock for walkers and runners and to allow cyclists to pass slower traffic. Runners often make their own informal trail in the dirt next to the pavement. Where equestrian use is present a typical solution is to simply let the horse riders make their own narrow trail. This keeps them a comfortable distance from others, but only works where steep banks and erosion are not a problem. Mountain bikers also take advantage of topography along the corridor to create a single track with more ups and downs.

Click on any photo to see it full size:
(Commentary by Stuart Macdonald, August 2009)
Cool Trail Solutions
Galleries of photos and tips on structures, signs, trail facilities, and accessibility improvements
Accessible Trails

- Interpreting requirements of ADA and agencies
- Recognizing creative efforts for accessibility
- Researching surfacing and design techniques
- Hosting workshops on Accessible Trails
- Promoting more training available to States
Universal Trail Assessment Process

- Working with State trails programs
- Promoting interest in evaluating trail systems
- Expanding training options
- Hosting workshops that introduce UTAP concepts
Trails Curricula for Colleges

- Goal: college-level curricula for online or classroom use
- Model: Marshall University OHV courses
- Needed: planning, design, and management for trails, greenways, and related facilities
- Audience: programs in Recreation, Public Land Management, and Landscape Architecture
American Trails sponsors the 20th National Symposium

Chattanooga, Tennessee ~ November 14-17, 2010

- Promoting new ideas and technology
- Bringing all trail interests together
- Training and seminars
- Site visits and mobile workshops
National Trails Training Partnership

Join us!

- Link to NTTP, online calendar, and resources
- Encourage people to use the NTTP calendar
- Promote news on trails training
- Tell us about new training and publications
- Document trail solutions to share with others
- Identify areas where training is needed
National Trails Training Partnership

For the future of trails training... skills for the trails of tomorrow!