

Regional Trail Training Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Developed by: American Trails and Chinook Associates

Thank you in advance for your interest in the Regional Trail Training Program (RTTP) that is being developed! We believe that this program will have a positive impact on the trails in your community and enhance efficient management of them. The following are answers to typical questions that we have encountered as it relates to the implementation of this effort. If you have any questions at all please feel free to reach out to us at the following contacts.

Happy Trails!

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What will the content of the workshops include?

An online survey to establish trail training needs in the area is being conducted. If you would like to participate here is a link to it [Trail Training Needs Analysis](#)

The expectation is that there will be two different tracks associated with these workshops. A Skills Workshop track and a Program Development track. The following describes what these tracks are envisioned to include.

Skills Workshop

A skills workshop is one where the outcome results in the participants developing technical expertise on a particular topic. Examples might include topics like:

- A maintenance workshop might focus on sealing or re-decking a bridge/boardwalk, removing non-native vegetation in the trail corridor, replacing wayfinding signs or rebuilding/hardening a campsite.
- Trail construction workshops could include techniques for tread construction, building a stream ford, constructing a timber causeway or methods of erecting a dry stack rock wall.
- Topics for a design workshop could include creating a barrier free tread alignment, creating a sign/communication plan or identifying alignments for specific types of trail visitors e.g. x-country skiing, mountain biking, equine visitors.

Program Development Workshop

A program development workshop is one where the participants are presented with operational examples that would be beneficial to their organization. Examples might include topics like:

- A comprehensive review of volunteer programs that includes recruitment, training and management. Volunteer opportunities like Crew Leader, Park Adopters, Patrollers, Inspectors and Administrative Assistants will be covered.
- Visitor counts and management alternatives
- Trail Maintenance Management

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Who will be in attendance at the workshops?

Content of the workshops will be developed so that they would be beneficial for agency/organization staff, volunteers and the general public to attend.

How are the workshops structured?

The number of workshops that could be developed will be determined by demand, funding and opportunities. Our initial thoughts are that there could be 4-6 Program Development workshops and 4-6 Skills workshops established.

Typically, the workshops are structured in a fairly informal way. The following describes some different time frames that could be considered.

- A 1-2 hour workshop could be scheduled for an evening, during the workday or on a weekend day pending the availability and type of the participants. Agency and organizational staff are typically more available during the day while volunteers tend to be more available of an evening or on the weekend.
- A 4-8 hour workshop would most likely occur on a weekday if the participants were agency or organizational staff and on a weekend day if it were directed towards volunteers as participants.
- A 2-day workshop (12-16 hours) could have a variety of scenarios. Consider the following for a Crew Leader Skills Workshop that targeted volunteers as Crew Leader Trainees:
 - The workshop content includes both “soft skills” e.g. leadership, crew safety and “technical skills” e.g. trail construction or maintenance techniques.
 - Soft skills could occur in evening sessions on a given weeknight say Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (consider an early start time if a light meal like pizza was provided)
 - The technical skill component would occur then ideally on the following Saturday and be of a 6-8 hour duration. During this day long element each crew leader trainee would have an opportunity to step into the crew leader role managing his/her fellow students as crew members. This scenario needs to have a “project” associated with it like a trail construction or maintenance effort.
 - Alternatively, this same workshop could be delivered over a weekend with 6-8 hours on a Saturday followed by 6-8 hours on a Sunday.

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What does a good site for a workshop look like?

Program Development workshops are normally delivered in a typical classroom environment. Locations could include: local schools, agency/organization meeting rooms, pavilions/shelters, community halls, churches etc.

Skills workshops normally have a lecture component of some kind followed by an application of the lecture in some form of hands on or experiential learning opportunity in the field. If using a classroom environment as described above it should be in reasonable proximity to the field site.

If I were to host a workshop, what would my obligation look like?

A workshop host is anticipated to be the agency or organization that is responsible for the management of the site where the workshop would occur. A host could also be an individual or group that has the support of the managing agency/organization to coordinate the event.

How will tools, equipment and materials be provided for workshops.

This will become clearer once we have a better sense of funding available. A Program Development workshop may have limited cost e.g. site costs and curriculum printing that could be absorbed by the workshop host. Cost for a Skills workshop e.g. tools, aggregate, timber, etc. could be absorbed by the workshop host or cost covered from some other means.

How will the RTTP be funded?

At this time, we are exploring all options for funding this effort including local philanthropic groups, grants, retail/business organizations and individual partners.

Our hope is that any cost for the participants in the workshops will be minimal or free. There is some consideration being given to charge a minimal fee to the participants to ensure their commitment to attending the workshop once they have registered to participate.