



TRAIL TRACKS

August 2025

MORE TRAILS. BETTER TRAILS.



2025 International Trails Summit Recap

The 2025 International Trails Summit (Summit) held in Madison, Wisconsin, brought together 850+ attendees from 17 countries! Along with 75 sponsors and 70 exhibitors, the Summit brought an economic impact of \$944,000 to Madison, Wisconsin.

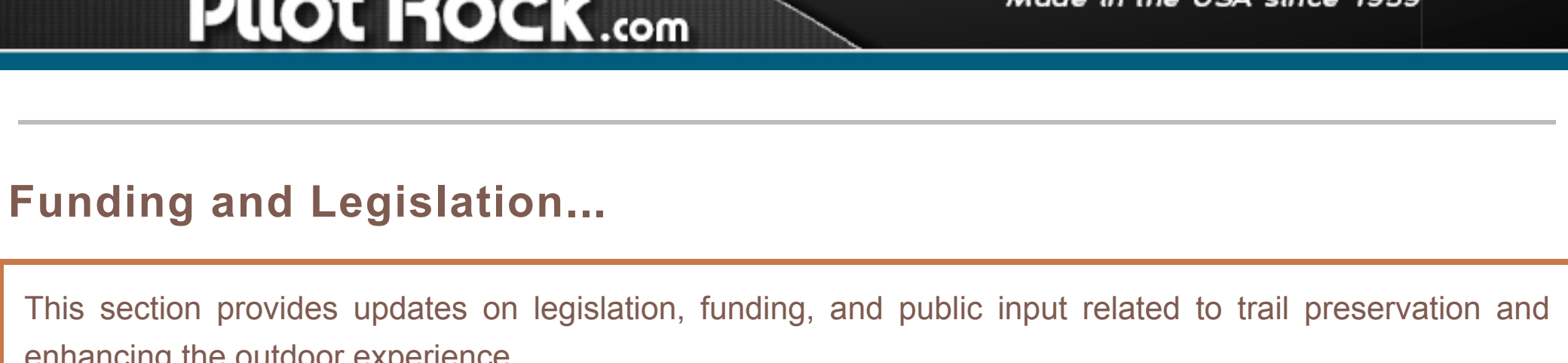
Highlights:

- Keynote James Edward Mills set the tone for three days full of deep, energizing talks
- The World Trails Film Festival showcased global stories of resilience, hope, and the transformative power of trails
- Wisconsin Governor Evers joined the Offsite Day and hopped on a mini excavator at the Dirt Demo

The Summit Recap combines information on Summit Proceedings and Events held during the Summit.

Announcement of the 2027 location and dates are coming soon!

[Find out more](#)



Funding and Legislation...

This section provides updates on legislation, funding, and public input related to trail preservation and enhancing the outdoor experience.



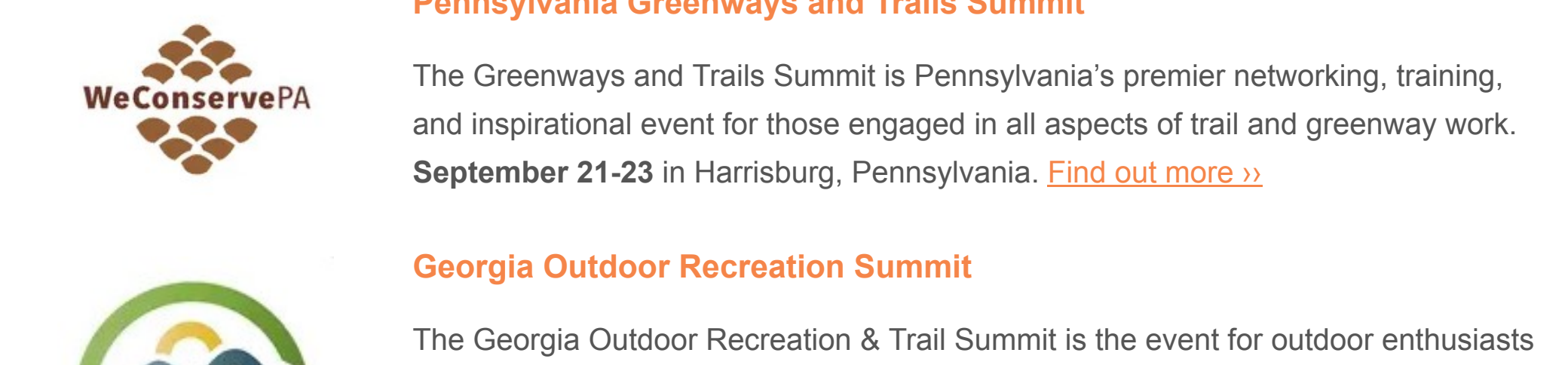
Pennsylvania Environmental Council Mini Grants

This new Mini Grant Program, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and administered by PEC, will provide \$1,000 to \$15,000 for projects or events that activate existing cycling assets through programming, promotion, or providing informational resources for cycling opportunities centered on gravel roads, mountain bike trails, and multi-use pathways throughout Pennsylvania. Applications are due **October 3** by 5:00pm. [Find out more](#) »



Yellowstone National Park Snowmobile Access Program

Beginning Friday, August 1, people may apply to the 2025-2026 winter lottery for permits to snowmobile in Yellowstone National Park without a commercial guide. Authorized in 2013, the [Non-Commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program](#) allows permit holders to enter the park for up to three days with a group of up to five snowmobilers. **The lottery will be open August 1-31** on [recreation.gov](#).



Conferences and Events...



Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit

The Greenways and Trails Summit is Pennsylvania's premier networking, training, and inspirational event for those engaged in all aspects of trail and greenway work. **September 21-23** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. [Find out more](#) »



Georgia Outdoor Recreation Summit

The Georgia Outdoor Recreation & Trail Summit is the event for outdoor enthusiasts to learn, experience & advocate for the outdoors. Stellar mobile workshops, influential speakers & excellent networking make the Summit the place to be for those who care about connecting people to the outdoors. **October 2-4** in Columbus, Georgia. [Find out more](#) »



Registration is NOW OPEN For The 2025 NOHVCC Annual Conference

The 2025 NOHVCC Annual Conference will be held in Bend, Oregon on **October 9-11**. The conference will be held at the RiverHouse Lodge, which lies on the banks of the Deschutes River. [Find out more](#) »



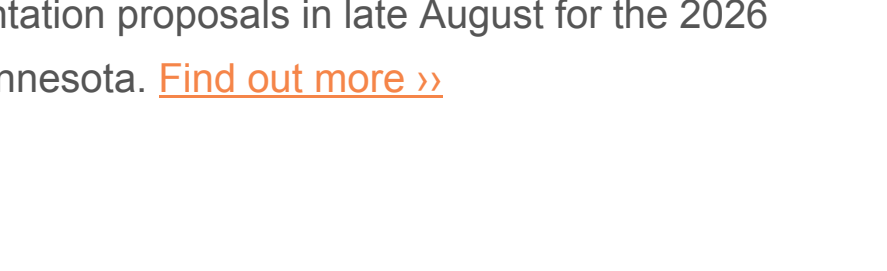
National Trails Lands Summit and Training

The National Trails Lands Summit and Training will take place **October 19-23** at the Plaza San Antonio Hotel and Spa in San Antonio, Texas. The National Trails Lands Summit and Training will replace PNTS's annual workshop in 2025. [Find out more](#) »



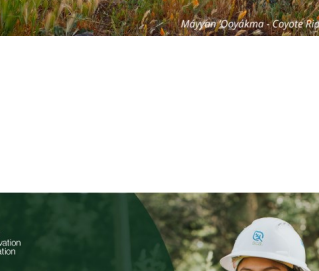
Powerful tools for better trails

Get started at: publiclands.alltrails.com



Proposals, Presenters, and Award Requests...

Need speakers, presenters, or award nominees for an upcoming conference? Share your trail and outdoor recreation-related requests with American Trails to be included in an upcoming newsletter. Send requests to trailhead@americantrails.org.



2026 PRPS Conference & Expo Call for Speakers

Call for educational session speakers at the 2026 Annual Conference and Expo in Manheim, Pennsylvania, March 24-27. **The deadline for submissions is August 29**. [Find out more](#) »



2026 National Outdoor Recreation Conference (NORC)

NORC will open a request for presentation proposals in late August for the 2026 conference, May 11-14 in Duluth, Minnesota. [Find out more](#) »

Resources...

The [American Trails Resource Library](#) is a central hub of resource links, documents, tools, and best practices essential for the development of services and capabilities needed to improve effective information sharing within the trails community. Search for resources by category or by using keywords. In this e-news, we have gathered external links that provide valuable context to this month's topics.

Note: This month's resources focus on the Summit Proceedings that speaker(s) have shared.



We Passed the Explore Act

Now What's Next for the Outdoor Recreation Economy? [Find out more](#) »



An Urban Thru-Hike? Linking the Bay Area Ridge Trail

It's the ultimate adventure. Walking out your door and hopping on a 550-mile trail that takes you on an epic journey circling the ridgelines of the San Francisco Bay. This adventure is coming much closer to reality as over 400 miles have been opened toward completing the Bay Area Ridge Trail. But many challenges remain before it can be called a thru-hike. [Find out more](#) »



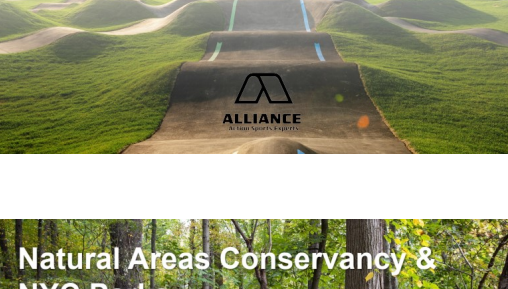
Creating Career Pathways and Access to Trails for Everyone

This presentation will offer a comprehensive look at barriers that prevent communities from accessing trails and provide actionable strategies for overcoming these challenges. [Find out more](#) »



E-Bikes on Public Lands: Mountain Bikes vs. Electronic Mountain Bikes Trail Rider Research

This presentation explores the sites and methodologies being used to expand research in the Moab, Utah area. Common concerns about ebike usage on public trails will be outlined, and the perspective of the Utah State Parks, where ebikes have been allowed for years, will be introduced, along with the implications for collaboration and joint trail systems should these studies result in a change in federal policy. [Find out more](#) »



Enhancing Trail Management and Conservation with Count Data

Collecting and interpreting total visitor numbers using automatic trail counter technology—including data on peak days & times of day can help ensure both positive visitor experiences and enhanced environmental protection. With this data, parks and natural space managers are better equipped to organize staffing, schedule maintenance, and secure and allocate appropriate funding. [Find out more](#) »



Fostering Trail Stewards from the Trailhead to the Tool Shed

Anyone can be a trail steward; they just need the right tools! [Find out more](#) »



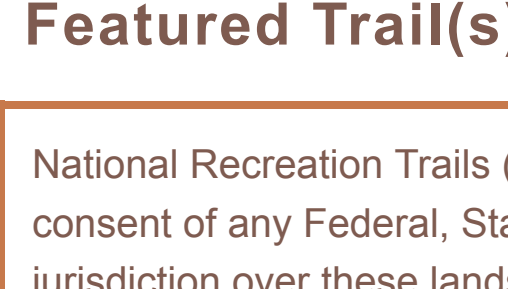
Increasing Indigenous Stewardship on Trails

In this session, the Arizona Trail Association will share lessons and strategies for establishing tribal partnerships, facilitating culturally responsive programs, and developing sustainable program models that meet both the needs of an organization and the communities served. [Find out more](#) »



The Future of Pump Tracks

Pump track of the future is becoming an artistic design within the limits of material and manpower combined into a limited space, which has all the potential of creativity with a simple understanding of physics. [Find out more](#) »



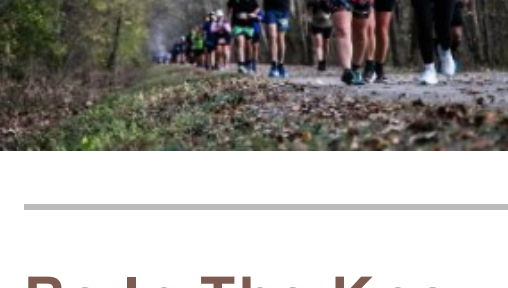
Urban Nature Trail Stewardship Best Practices and Design Guidelines for NYC's 250 Mile Urban Citywide Trail System

A review of NYC Parks & Natural Areas Conservancy's Citywide Trails Program's work within the 300-mile urban nature trail network in New York City. [Find out more](#) »



We Don't Need Trails: the Social Capital of Outdoor Recreation

What do we really need to be healthy and happy? Trails and outdoor recreation are one of the most efficient pathways to positive personal and community impact. Come explore and share how trails can provide lifestyle improvements, economic impact, and sense of place as a high ROI investment in your life and your town. [Find out more](#) »

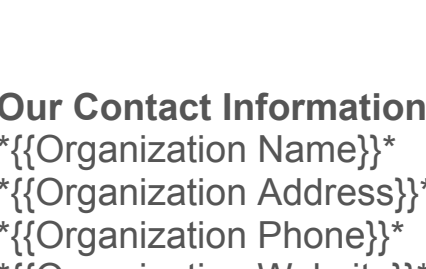


Designing for Everyone: The Importance of Handicap Accessible Outdoor Spaces

As communities grow more diverse, the demand for public and private spaces that welcome people of all abilities continues to rise. Creating inclusive, accessible outdoor environments is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. [Find out more](#) »

Featured Advertiser: R.J. Thomas Mfg. Company Inc. / Pilot Rock

R.J. Thomas Mfg. Company designs and manufactures the Pilot Rock brand of park, street, and campsite products. [Find out more](#) »



RJ Thomas Mfg. Co.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}



Connect with us!

