



HIKE THE HILL® 2026 Trail Priorities

Legacy Restoration Fund Reauthorization

(Co-Sponsor America the Beautiful Act, S.1547/Anticipated House Bill)

The National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund is an essential tool to address deferred maintenance of trails and public lands across the country. The fund expired in 2025 and bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and extend this critical program has been introduced by Sen. Daines (R-MT) and King (I-ME) and is anticipated by House Natural Resources Chair Westerman (R-AR-4) and Ranking Member Huffman (D-CA-2).

Robust Trails Funding in FY27

Pass FY27 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations and THUD bill preserving and expanding the key trail line items below.

Forest Service

- Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails
- Legacy Roads and Trails, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness

National Park Service

- Operations, National Trails System
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance

Bureau of Land Management

- National Conservation Lands, National Scenic and Historic Trails

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Visitor Services
- Branch of Transportation & Data Management, Headquarters- National Partnerships

U.S. Geological Survey

- National Geo Spatial Program, National Digital Trails Project

Department of Transportation

- Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

(Full Appropriations Request on Back)

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Protect the Transportation Alternative Program (including the Recreational Trails Program) from Elimination

Preserve and strengthen the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, the nation's oldest and largest source of dedicated funding for trails, walking and biking. The program supports over 42,500 miles of multi-use trails, including funding for the Recreational Trails Program, biking, and walking.

Co-Sponsor the RTP Full Funding Act of 2025 (S. 811)

Support for RTP by co-sponsoring the RTP Full Funding Act will support its continued inclusion, and growth, in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization. More than 30,000 trail projects have been funded through RTP benefitting tens of millions of diverse trail users. RTP unites and benefits various trail users, including equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, joggers, and water trail enthusiasts. The program, funded through motor fuel excise tax, currently receives less funding than is contributed by non-highway recreational fuel use tax to the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

Please contact Tyler Ray, Senior Director for Programs and Advocacy, tray@americanhiking.org or Courtney Lyons-Garcia, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System, courtney@pnts.org





Trails Community FY27 Appropriations Recommendations

USDA Forest Service

- **Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails budget at \$24M** (+\$2M from FY26 Enacted)
 - **Report Language:** Non-governmental partners play an outsized role in the maintenance of Forest Service Trails completing over 50% of all maintenance based on 2023 Forest Service data. The **Forest Service is directed to utilize additional funding to increase financial support of these partnerships** to address maintenance needs given current agency staffing and capacity.
 - **Report Language:** In order to support adequate funding for all Forest Service trails and to avoid a reduction in the existing budget for non-National Scenic and Historic Trails managed by the Forest Service, **increases for non-National Scenic and Historic Trails should occur in parity with the rate of increases for National Scenic and Historic Trails.**
- **At least \$58M to fund Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness**
- **At minimum, \$6M to fund Legacy Roads & Trails**
 - **Report Language:** The committee supports continued funding for the **National Forest System Trail Stewardship Trail Partner Funding Program**. The Forest Service has had a successful Trail Stewardship Partner Funding program in place since 2017 that leverages federal funding by 6:1.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- **\$11.496M for National Trails System, National Conservation Lands line item** (+\$0.248M from FY26 Enacted)
- **National Conservation Lands at least \$59.135M**

National Park Service

- **Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program at \$13.47M**
- **Park Service Operations for the National Trails System at \$18.856M**
- **Volunteers in Parks at \$7.717M**
- **Youth Partnership program at \$14.665M**
- **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, at a minimum of \$125M**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- **Refuge Visitor Services at least \$76M**
- **Branch of Transportation & Data Management - Headquarters**
 - **Report Language:** National Partnerships are an important component to maintain trail infrastructure across Fish and Wildlife Service sites. The **Department shall continue to support National Partnerships in the Branch of Transportation & Data Management and across Headquarters and prioritize funding to leverage these partnerships.**

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- **\$1.5M to fully fund the National Digital Trail Project (NDTP) of USGS** (+\$0.15M from FY26 Enacted)

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program- THUD

- **At minimum \$10M for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program**

*For more information on trails appropriations contact
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