



Harnessing the Power of Trail Networks

At Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, we believe in the transformative power of connected trail networks. When trail networks are embraced as vital community assets, they bring powerful solutions for addressing issues as far ranging as chronic disease, resiliency, mobility, social equity and economic growth.

That's why RTC is convening hand-picked leaders from across the country for a summit to harness the energy and the knowledge that is fueling the national movement to connect communities and regions by trails.

The TrailNation™ Summit will gather, by invitation only, a team of national experts; public officials; trail and active transportation advocates; and philanthropic, public health and economic development professionals from 20 trail network building initiatives—eight that represent RTC's TrailNation projects and 12 others that make up the TrailNation Collaborative. These leaders will share best practices and real-world challenges, gathering the best thinking and the best approaches for building regional trail networks in communities across America.

Why You Should Attend

The TrailNation Summit is the only opportunity for diverse experts and stakeholders who are critical to the success of trail networks to come together and focus on the work of building trail networks. You are part of a team that is already applying creative thinking and innovative approaches to trail network development. At the TrailNation Summit, those ideas and approaches will be shared with others working on similar goals nationwide—bring the best strategies to the forefront. The TrailNation Summit and the ongoing work of the TrailNation Collaborative will:

- Provide a venue for those working on trail networks to learn, share best practices and inspire the rapid replication of trail networks nationwide.
- Quantify and amplify the value and benefits that connected trail networks bring and discuss how this vital infrastructure creates opportunities for 21st century communities.
- Develop a powerful advocacy voice in support of active transportation funding and investment in trails, walking and biking.

TrailNation Projects

The team at RTC is committed to connecting trails and building comprehensive trail systems that bring people together and get them where they want to go. In eight diverse places across the country, RTC is invested in digging in with hundreds of partners to make trail networks happen. These TrailNation™ projects are incredibly unique, but share a common goal: to prove the potential of trails to deliver significant outcomes.



TrailNation Collaborative

RTC has gathered leading trail network projects from across the country—representing communities diverse in size, culture and geography—to join RTC’s TrailNation™ Projects in an effort to educate and engage a broad coalition of stakeholders committed to the rapid replication of these vital community assets nationwide. The TrailNation Collaborative will come together for the first time in June in Milwaukee.

Billings, Mont. • Colorado Springs, Colo. • Houston • Lincoln and Omaha, Neb. • Memphis, Tenn. • New Orleans
• Portland, Ore. • Rochester, Minn. • Sacramento, Calif. • Salt Lake City • San Jose, Calif. • Seattle • St. Louis

Why Milwaukee?

Milwaukee is the urban hub of the Route of the Badger, a TrailNation project with a vision to connect more than 500 miles of trail to form a world-class trail network in southeast Wisconsin. During the TrailNation Summit, RTC will showcase the inspiring work that’s underway and explore the ways Milwaukee can serve as a national model for leveraging trails as important tools to advance strategies for equitable access to transportation and recreation.

Why RTC?

As the premiere national trails organization, RTC has more than 30 years of expertise building trails and a bold vision to connect trail networks in every community in America. We know that it will take changes in public policy, infrastructure and behavior to bring this vision to life—and we know that it will take a diverse coalition of partners to create comprehensive trail and active transportation systems in every type of community. Our TrailNation work and the portfolio of TrailNation projects is redefining what it means to build trail networks and what trail networks can mean for people and places. The TrailNation Summit is an opportunity to convene the best thinkers, leaders and doers who share our vision—with a goal of catalyzing the rapid replication of trail networks nationwide.