

Borinquen Trail adds Puerto Rico to the Rails-to-Trails Map.

On **Celebrate Trails Day** (this Saturday, April 22), Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), the largest U.S.-based trails advocacy organization, showcases the impact of trails and trail systems on people, places and the planet by encouraging everyone to get outside on trails.

Joining this year's celebration is the Borinquen Trail in Puerto Rico as part of **its partnership with** RTC. In addition, Borinquen Trail will collaborate with RTC on technical assistance initiatives and advocate for funding sources and best practices in trail implementation. Since 1992, RTC has helped advocate for more than \$20 billion in funds to support more than 40,000 trail and active transportation projects throughout the nation.

The Borinquen Trail is a **600-mile multi-use trail** for walking and bicycling, endorsed by RTC. The trail repurposes former railroad right-of-way encircling the island, including breathtaking beachfront and historic tunnel segments. The route will connect **22 municipalities** and, once fully implemented, could generate up to **\$673 million in annual user spending** through direct, indirect, and induced economic effects. Adding to this sum will be the growth and creation of businesses associated with the outdoor recreation industry, including restaurants, sports equipment and bicycle rental establishments, history and tourism groups, hotels, and more. The trail could support between **4,708 and 7,294 jobs** and is expected to spur an **annual \$21-41 million** in new island and federal tax income.

The **implementation of the Borinquen Trail has already begun**, a critical step in the island's journey to a more sustainable environmental, and resilient future. Last month, planning for the Borinquen's **pilot project in Playa de Ponce** (in the south of the island) was completed, and new local partners are joining to drive construction and designation of the trail. When finished, it will establish a multimodal connection between two historic centers: Playa de Ponce and the municipality's town core.

The Borinquen Trail has the potential to significantly increase tourism island-wide, create thousands of jobs, and improve public health across Puerto Rico. With the rail-trail already in motion, there is much to look forward to as its route unfolds over the coming years. To learn more and support this effort, visit <https://www.rutaborinquen.org>.

Celebrate Trails Day is the annual celebration of the spring trail season, recognized on the fourth Saturday in April. The national celebration is organized by RTC, the largest U.S.-based trails organization—with a grassroots community more than 1 million strong. RTC is dedicated to building a nation connected by trails, reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors. Follow #CelebrateTrails on social media for updates, and connect with RTC at railstotrails.org and @railstotrails on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).