

EXPLORING THE DIFFERENCE WE'VE MADE

Since 1986, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) has served as the national voice for the rail-trail movement.

As the country's largest trails organization, it's our job to speak up for trails, showcasing their power in bringing incredible benefits to communities and elevating the passionate work of trail supporters and advocates across the nation. Our vision of a nation where trails connect everyone, everywhere, inspires our big ideas and guides us as we advocate, mobilize, collaborate, support, protect and speak out for trails.



WE ADVOCATE ...

for transformative investments in trails, walking and bicycling at the federal, state and local levels. To date, nearly \$24 billion in federal funding has supported 40,500+ projects via Transportation Alternatives and the Recreational Trails Program. In FY 2023, our advocacy alongside partners in 15 states helped secure more than \$533 million in funding for trails, walking and bicycling. We also enacted new strategies to empower hundreds of communities to access the groundbreaking trail funding now available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



WE MOBILIZE ...

people across the United States to advocate for safe walking and biking infrastructure in their communities and beyond. In FY 2023, supporters sent more than 20,000 messages to federal decision-makers in support of trails and active transportation. This advocacy has yielded billions of dollars in funding and has generated the political will needed to accelerate the development of equitable, accessible trail networks nationwide.



WE COLLABORATE ...

with thousands of partners, including national organizations; federal, state and local agencies; public leaders; and grassroots advocates to create and connect trails and expand the trails movement. A highlight of FY 2023 was Celebrate Trails Day, where we partnered with more than 200 organizations and brands to elevate and celebrate the impact of trails on people and communities.



WE CONNECT ...

people and places by developing trail networks that create healthy, thriving communities and serve as models for the nation. In collaboration with partners across our TrailNation™ portfolio and the Great American Rail-Trail®—which collectively span 27 states and the District of Columbia, and nearly 12,000 miles—we helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars in public and private funds for trail network development in FY 2023.



WE PROTECT TRAILS ...

by continuing to lead a 30-years-plus effort to shape the legal framework around rail-trails and defend them in the courts. Since 1986, we've been involved in 60+ legal cases, including landmark state and federal cases that have laid the groundwork for the national trails movement.



WE SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL TRAIL COMMUNITY ...

by providing best practices and trail-planning resources, technical support, and capacity-building grants to rural, suburban and urban communities seeking to connect their trail systems and create joyful, vibrant, equitable and inclusive public spaces. Our TrailNation Collaborative engages 7,500 trail advocates and professionals from across sectors to accelerate trail network development in America. Since 2008, we've also awarded nearly \$3 million in the form of 380 trail development grants to 225 organizations nationwide.



WE ELEVATE ...

the transformative power of trails, building demand for this infrastructure and encouraging people to make trails part of their everyday lives. In FY 2023, we connected millions of people to trails via TrailLink™, RTC's trail-finder platform, and engaged millions more in loving and supporting trails via our national storytelling and engagement campaigns like #CelebrateTrails and #TrailMoments.



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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
IMPACT REPORT
FY 2023

CONNECTING AMERICA BY TRAIL

Today, more than 41,000 miles of rail-trails and multiuse trails exist nationwide. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC's) focus is on linking these corridors—creating equitable, accessible trail networks that connect people and places in ways that deliver powerful outcomes.

Trails transform communities in many ways, strengthening economies, providing balanced and equitable transportation choices, promoting health and protecting our environment. As we forge ahead, our eyes are fixed on connecting America's walking and biking infrastructure and ensuring trails are at the heart of healthy, thriving communities.

Here's a look at RTC's flagship initiatives—TrailNation™, the Great American Rail-Trail® and TrailLink™—enduring projects that provide the inspiration, insight and opportunity to connect America by trail like never before.

TrailNation



At RTC, we believe that communities are healthier and happier when trail networks are central to their design. That's why, through our TrailNation program, we're committed to connecting trails and building comprehensive trail systems that bring people together and get them where they want to go. In nine places across the country—places that are diverse in their geography, culture, size and scope—RTC is investing in projects and partnerships that demonstrate what is possible in all types of places when 21st-century trail networks are at the center of our lives. These TrailNation projects take an innovative approach to how trails and active transportation systems are built—from concept to implementation—proving the power of trails to create healthy, thriving communities, and redefining what it means to build trail networks and what trail networks can mean for people and places. Learn more: trailnation.org.

Great American Rail-Trail



Picture yourself ... pedaling across the entire country on a safe, seamless and scenic pathway—or walking a local trail that connects along historic routes. Imagine the incomparable experience of exploring America's heritage by trail—its potential, its beauty and bounty, its people and places. Consider the economic opportunities and the benefits for communities along the route of a multiuse trail—the Great American Rail-Trail, or “Great American”—that stretches more than 3,700 miles between Washington, D.C., and Washington State. The Great American is RTC's most ambitious trail project to date and will be the nation's first cross-country multiuse trail, uniting millions of people along its route. Today, the Great American is more than 55% complete, but there are still more than 1,600 miles left to fill in. To get it done, RTC is providing the national leadership and on-the-ground support—the work to organize people, plans and ideas; trail planning and community engagement; and the advocacy and marketing that is necessary to complete the Great American Rail-Trail. Learn more: greatamericanrailtrail.org.

TrailLink



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

RTC's trail-finder website, [TrailLink.com](https://traillink.com), leads the country in promoting trail use and satisfying the growing demand for trails for recreation and active transportation—to date cataloguing more than 41,000 miles of multiuse trails. RTC reaches millions of people annually through the TrailLink website and mobile apps (iOS and Android), connecting people across the country with the trails and the outdoor experiences they love. Learn more: traillink.com.

Read more about RTC's impact and accomplishments
in 2023 at railstotrails.org/impactreport2023.

