



2016 ANNUAL REPORT
BUILDING A LEGACY FOR HIKERS



40

YEARS OF IMPACT

558,708 VOLUNTEERS
GAVE BACK TO TRAILS

41,146 TRAIL MILES
BUILT OR MAINTAINED

\$108 MILLION
TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME*

In 2016, American Hiking Society celebrated a significant milestone – 40 years of protecting and building hiking trails and advocating on behalf of America’s hikers. Whether it was providing testimony to Congress, a volunteer using a Pulaski on a backcountry trail in Idaho, or connecting Americans in urban areas to trails in the front country, American Hiking has been there since 1976 – protecting the places you love to hike.

This past year, American Hiking has continued to build on this legacy and enhanced our programs and advocacy work to achieve noteworthy results:

- ▶ More than 1,500 miles of trails maintained;
- ▶ More than \$200,000 of trail

grants awarded, enabling trail building, foot bridge construction, trailhead kiosk installations, and more;

- ▶ Provided the hiker’s perspective on federal agency trail and land policies as well as influenced Congressional legislation such as the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Act.

We are indeed proud of our accomplishments. And by “our accomplishments” please know that we include YOU and every other supporter. Each of you who dug deep to support these efforts with a generous donation, all the volunteers who put their time and efforts into trail building, each hiker who called a member of Congress, and all who did so much that

added strength to our efforts to protect the places we all hike.

Looking forward to 2017, we remain firm in our commitment to protect the places you love to hike, steward our public lands, and help more people get outdoors.

Stay on the path with us; the trail ahead looks incredible from here.

Sincerely,



Jack Hess
Chair, Board of Directors



Pete Olsen
Interim Executive Director

OUR VOLUNTEERS HAVE REACHED GREAT HEIGHTS

Millions of hikers enjoyed new and improved trails all across America as a result of American Hiking Society’s 40 years of commitment to foot trails and the hiking experience. We thank all those who made this possible and celebrate the collective effort to protect the places you love to hike.

*Calculated using the latest figure from 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics data and indexed by Independent Sector in April 2016.



\$3.4 MILLION

Value of Volunteer Labor Building & Maintaining Hiking Trails

1,526

Miles of Trail Maintained

168,553

Participants at National Trails Day® and Volunteer Vacations

**2016
NATIONWIDE
IMPACT**

59

Week-long Volunteer Vacations and Alternative Break Projects

2,391

National Trails Day® Activities Nationwide

\$220,000

National Trails Fund and Extra Mile Fund Grants

2016 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®



168,000
People Attended
an Event



2,391
Trail Activities
in All 50 States



25,900
Stewardship
Volunteers



466
Stewardship
Projects



\$2.8 Million
Value of Volunteer
Time



1,200
Miles of Trail
Built or Maintained



1.06 Billion
Media Impressions
Worth \$9.8 Million

“This was one of the days that I sat back and said, ‘look at this, we got people out, and they had a blast!’ That is what makes my job enjoyable and drives me to continue reaching out to the public to share my love and passion for being outdoors and appreciating our natural resources!”

Lacey K. Gurien, District Manager | Weston County Natural Resource District, WY

 Lacey Gurien

2016 National Trails Day® Sponsors



Federal Partners

2016 VOLUNTEER VACATIONS

 **59**
Total Projects

 **15**
College
Stewardship Projects

 **291**
Miles of Trail
Built or Maintained

 **553**
Volunteers

 **22,120**
Volunteer Hours
(or 922 Days)

 **\$521,147**
Value of Volunteer Time

 **1.8 Million**
Trail Users with
Improved Trail Access



Rich Wright

2016 Volunteer Vacations Sponsors



Agency Partners

A Legacy of Protecting Our Nation's Trails

Since 1976, American Hiking Society has worked with Congress, federal agencies, and many recreation and conservation partners on policy issues and legislation to ensure funding for trails, preservation of natural areas, and protection of the hiking experience. In 2016, accomplishments included:

- ▶ Worked to ensure passage of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act which, even in a divided Congress, passed with broad bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Obama.
 - ◆ New law will help address the \$314 million maintenance backlog on US Forest Service trails.
- ▶ Lobbied for permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – one of the most critical land protection programs for trails.
 - ◆ This effort resulted in legislation that gathered excellent bipartisan support but failed to pass in the very last hours of the 114th Congress.

- ◆ Advocated for LWCF funding in the FY2017 budget for lands that would help close gaps on trails as well as preserve nearby viewsheds.

- ▶ An early supporter of the effort, AHS lobbied for passage of the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act which was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

- ◆ The law will ensure an official and thorough study of the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the national economy is conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

- ◆ As AHS continues to protect hiking trails and the lands around them, this data will help drive home the fact that hiking trails aren't just good fun, but good economic drivers for both, the national economy and local economies.

Additionally, AHS lobbied Congress on the following issues:

- ▶ The North Country Trail Route Adjustment Act
- ▶ The Complete America's Great Trails Act
- ▶ The National Scenic Trails Parity Act
- ▶ The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act
- ▶ Wildfire Disaster funding fix (various bills)
- ▶ Protection of designated Wilderness

HIKING TRAILS IN AMERICA

Pathways to Health

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY | MAY 2016



AHS produced and published the Hiking Trails in America – Pathways to Health report, bringing national attention to the numerous health benefits of hiking trails.

A successful press event on Capitol Hill brought attention to the necessity of trails and places to hike for all Americans, helping to build support for trails across a broad spectrum.

2016 National Trails Fund Grant Recipients

American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund is the only privately funded, national grants program dedicated solely to building and protecting hiking trails. Created in response to the growing backlog of trail maintenance projects, the National Trails Fund has helped hundreds of grassroots organizations acquire the resources needed to protect America's

cherished hiking trails. To date, American Hiking Society has funded 209 trail projects by awarding over \$679,000 in National Trails Fund grants.

The 2016 National Trails Fund awarded over \$18,000 to eight trail organizations located all across the country.

L.L.Bean

L.L. Bean is a proud supporter of American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund. They have given hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of the National Trails Fund.



Victor Hiking Trail
New York



Gorge Preservations Society
Texas



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West Virginia



The Clinch Coalition
Virginia



Red Mountain Park
Alabama



Southeast Conservation Corps
Tennessee



Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
Montana



Arizona Trail Association
Arizona



Go the Extra Mile Fund

Partnering with American Hiking Society for the second straight year, Michelob ULTRA supported 12 trails in 2016 with a penny from every 12 pack of Michelob Ultra going to trails. As a result, a total of \$250,000 was raised to restore trails across the United States.

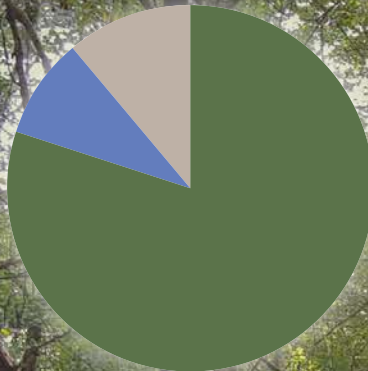
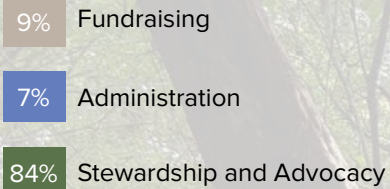
These funds will significantly improve trail access and enjoyment for outdoor enthusiasts in these 12 metropolitan areas:

- ▶ Chicago, IL: Palos Trails
- ▶ Columbus, OH: The Buckeye Trail
- ▶ Denver, CO: Herman Gulch Trail
- ▶ Houston, TX: Spring Creek Nature Trail
- ▶ Los Angeles, CA: Backbone Trail
- ▶ Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, FL: The Florida Trail in Big Cypress National Preserve
- ▶ New Orleans, LA: Woodlands Trail
- ▶ New York City, NY: Van Cortlandt Park
- ▶ Orlando-Daytona Beach, FL: The Florida Trail in Little Big Econ State Forest
- ▶ San Antonio, TX: Joe Johnson Route
- ▶ San Diego, CA: San Diego River Trail
- ▶ Louis, MO: Ozark Trail

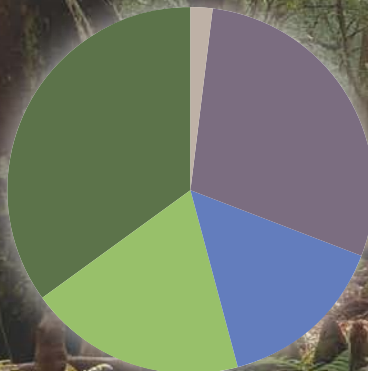
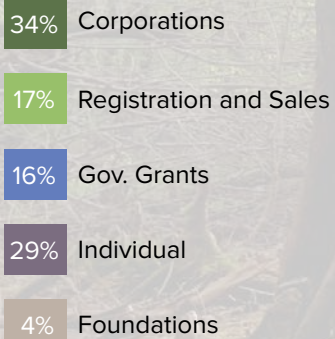


2016 Financial Report

Expenses



Income



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Special Thanks To Our Contributors

The donors listed on this page generously contributed \$500 or more in 2016. American Hiking Society gratefully acknowledges their commitment to protecting the places we all love to hike.

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You can give at work.

Thank you to the many donors who contributed to American Hiking Society last year through corporate, state, city and county workplace giving campaigns. If you are a federal employee, you can support our work by designating **#11784** on your pledge sheet during the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).



American Hiking Society

8605 Second Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Info@AmericanHiking.org
AmericanHiking.org
(301) 565-6704

Thank you to our supporters

Founded in 1976, American Hiking Society is renowned as the only national voice for the more than 37 million Americans who hike. Today our members continue to stand by us to expand our support. More than 500,000 citizens are committed to promoting and protecting hiking and America's vast network of trails financially. We thank each and every one of our members for their dedication to our mission of protecting hiking trails for future generations.

Thank You to Our 2016 Corporate Sponsors and Agency Partners

