



AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY'S  
**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®**  
2019 REPORT

**TOGETHER WE SET A TRAIL SERVICE WORLD RECORD**



**JUNE 1, 2019**

Tens of thousands of hikers, bikers, cyclists, horseback riders, trail clubs, federal and local agencies, land trusts, and businesses came together to advocate for, maintain, and clean up public lands and trails in honor of the 27th Annual American Hiking Society's National Trails Day®.

## 2019 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY® IMPACT



**41,424 PEOPLE**

**Set A Trail Service World Record**



**1,164 EVENTS**  
In All 50 States



**294 TRAIL**  
Service Projects



**869 TRAIL MILES**  
Built or Maintained



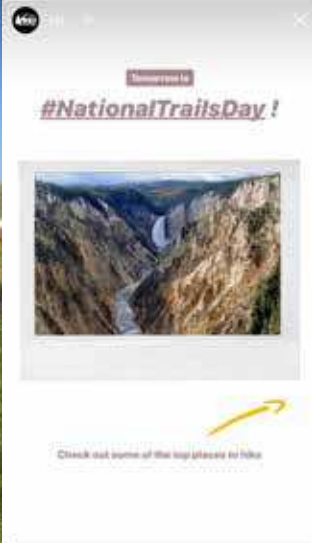
**\$2,585,108**  
Volunteer Labor Value

# TRAIL SERVICE WORLD RECORD



We saw how our public lands suffered during the government shutdown. American Hiking Society challenged public land lovers across the country to join our National Trails Day® pledge and set the world record for the most people improving trails in a single day.

On June 1, **41,424 people** made history by cleaning up a trail or volunteering at a trail service project on National Trails Day®.



# STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

National Trails Day® reached **18,985,346** People on Social Media Feeds (not including Facebook/Instagram Stories)

[View AHS's Instagram Story](#)



The 2019 Sanford Bike Fest had a great turnout.

📷 Melissa Beecher



National Trails Day® ride at Lusscroft Farm, Wantage, NJ

📷 Jody Cordell



# UNITED BY TRAILS

📷 Laura Evans



📷 Jane Ochsenbein



Runners and volunteers helped preserve critical habitats for wildlife, build recreational areas to connect the community to nature, and protect the supply of clean drinking water through conservation projects along the Savannah River.

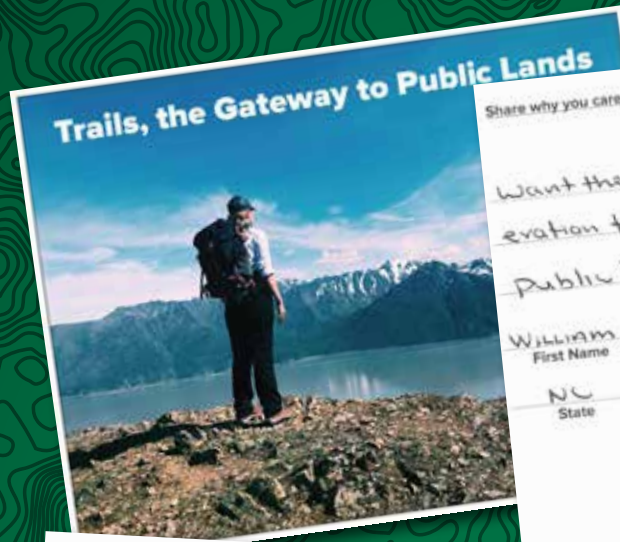
Volunteers cleaned up the Waccamaw River Blue Trail in sunny South Carolina! 300 lbs of flood debris and trash collected by kayakers covering 3 miles of the river trail.

# ADVOCATING FOR TRAIL FUNDING

To increase awareness and advocate for trail issues, American Hiking Society offered National Trails Day® participants the opportunity to send their Members of Congress postcards asking for full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to support the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.\*

American Hiking Society distributed over **3,000 postcards** to events across the country and collected participant responses. American Hiking will hand deliver returned postcards to Members of Congress, putting the voices of hikers and trail users across the country directly in their hands.

\* Federal funding was not used for National Trails Day® advocacy efforts



Share why you care about trails below:

Want the next generation to enjoy our Public lands

William V First Name Last Name  
NC State 28734 Zipcode

Trails connect us with public lands, provide access to all types of outdoor recreation, and create 3.5 million jobs and \$594 billion in economic activity.

I'm calling on Congress to protect, preserve, and expand trails by passing:

1. Full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) (S.108T);

2. The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (S.500/H.R. 1225) to address the deferred maintenance of trails; and

3. Robust funding for trail and recreation programs.

Sheyenne National Grassland, North Dakota  
AHS Volunteer Vacation Participant

Share why you care about trails below:

They provide me peace and comfort. It's somewhere I can escape to.

IASFIA A First Name Last Name  
NY 11104 State Zipcode

Trails connect us with public lands, provide access to all types of outdoor recreation, and create 3.5 million jobs and \$594 billion in economic activity.

I'm calling on Congress to protect, preserve, and expand trails by passing:

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3. Robust funding for trail and recreation programs.

Sheyenne National Grassland, North Dakota  
AHS Volunteer Vacation Participant

Share why you care about trails below:

TRAILS BRING COMMUNITIES OF PEOPLE TOGETHER.

David B First Name Last Name  
OH State 44406 Zipcode

Trails connect us with public lands, provide access to all types of outdoor recreation, and create 3.5 million jobs and \$594 billion in economic activity.

I'm calling on Congress to protect, preserve, and expand trails by passing:

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3. Robust funding for trail and recreation programs.

Colorado River

Share why you care about trails below:

I ♥ TRAILS! THEY BRING FITNESS, JOY, OPPORTUNITIES + ACCESS FOR COMMUNITIES. PLEASE SUPPORT!

EMILY D First Name Last Name  
CO State 80203 Zipcode

Trails connect us with public lands, provide access to all types of outdoor recreation, and create 3.5 million jobs and \$594 billion in economic activity.

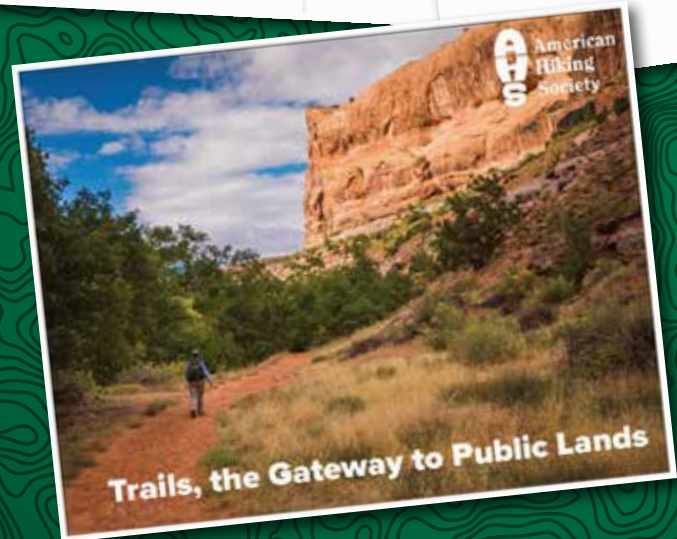
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Colorado River



Share why you care about trails below:

TRAILS KEEP US ALL CONNECTED - TO WHAT REALLY MATTERS.

KRISTINA L First Name Last Name  
CT State 06010 Zipcode

Trails connect us with public lands, provide access to all types of outdoor recreation, and create 3.5 million jobs and \$594 billion in economic activity.

I'm calling on Congress to protect, preserve, and expand trails by passing:

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Sheyenne National Grassland, North Dakota  
AHS Volunteer Vacation Participant

# A DAY OF SERVICE

From trail cleanups to invasive weed removal to trail maintenance and construction projects, the trails community came together for a multi-generational, historic day of trail and public land service.

On National Trails Day®, the Environmental Stewardship Team at Flushing Meadows Corona Park spread wood-chips along 150 feet of the Pat Dolan Trail in Flushing, NY.



# CARING FOR TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACROSS AMERICA



📷 wandering.pine

“We hauled just under 5lbs of trash off the trail and spent a glorious day in one of my favorite Minneapolis Parks. Best day!” - @wandering.pine



📷 agoutah

“We cleaned up bags and bags full of trash along a couple miles of the Ogden River Parkway Trail, enjoyed spectacular weather and lush, green scenery, and enjoyed spending time with our furry friends to boot!”

- Adam Tobey,  
AHS NextGen Trail Leader



📷 Anna Mathis

Chattanooga Park Stewards and WildTrails teamed up to give Stringers Ridge trails some TLC. Together, volunteers cleared all 8 miles of trails from overhanging and encroaching vegetation.



📷 losanfranciscobayarea

“We removed 29 bags of invasive species and learned about the history of Lands End. Thank you to everyone that came out for your time and service! It takes a community to make a difference!”

- Latino Outdoors SF Bay Area



📷 Brian Malowe

Cub Scout Pack 63 completed a trail clean up on the Ashley River Rd Bike and Walking Trail.



📷 psi315

“Jiro and I joined a trail work group to help maintain a part of the Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains. It was misty, which contributed to a work environment that brought out our best!” - Saiko Ishiduka



# CONNECTING MORE PEOPLE TO TRAILS

**“We had a ‘choose your own adventure’ model for our day, including trail work, yoga, and multiple hike options. At the end of all the hikes we had family-friendly programs, free ice cream, and bubbles!”**

- Heidi Bock, Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc  
Overmountain Conservation Area, Ancram, NY



# SHARING THE TRAIL EXPERIENCE



📷 Maricela Rosales

“It was an excellent experience, and we really enjoyed the stunning waterfall and hike. My girls enjoyed lessons on the hike regarding nature, and culture information as Latinos.”

- Latino Outdoors NTD participant



📷 Red Mountain Park

These friends are hiking Red Mountain Park for the first time in Birmingham, AL.



📷 Marlen Kemmet

Volunteers and staff from Polk County Conservation, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and REI came together on National Trails Day®. They tackled erosion issues, placed a new trail, installed steps along an existing trail, removed invasive species and litter, and added a few creative pieces to the Mindful Contemplative Area.



📷 thebucketlisttraveler

“Women who invest in themselves go further. Women who invest in themselves and in each other go even further. Grateful to have met these ladies during a group hike in Las Vegas. I now have three more friends to hike and explore with!”

- Linda M., Women Who Hike



📷 Dawna Mirante

“This was a wonderful event and look forward to leading another hike next year and with more stewardship with the rangers at Point Reyes. We were already talking about what they need done. It was a great relationship building event between Women Who Hike and the local rangers!”

- Dawna Mirante, Women Who Hike



📷 trailgangstaz

“How we feel about it being #NationalTrailsDay over here”

- Crystal Hernandez



# NATIONAL TRAILS DAY® CHAMPIONS

📷 Arthur Poulin

American Hiking recognizes the commitment of all the organizations involved in building National Trails Day® into an outstanding day of fun and service. Each year, we honor a few organizations and brands that go above and beyond in planning and promoting events. The National Trails Day® Champions for 2019 include:



For more than a decade, Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) has hosted more NTD events than any other state, thanks to the leadership and coordination of CFPA, an AHS Alliance Organization. In 2019, CFPA organized a total of 253 events.



Adventure Cycling Association (ACA) has hosted Bike Travel Weekend for the past four years to coincided with NTD, and more than 100 bike trips took place on trails this year.



Nearly 60 Hike it Baby branches invited families to get outside and join them for a family-friendly hike or trail clean up on NTD. Hike it Baby helps with outreach and communications for NTD.



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP): NJDEP helped coordinated nearly 50 events throughout New Jersey to celebrate NTD. Events ranged from trail maintenance projects, to guide hikes, and community festivals.



REI stores across the country partnered with local organizations to host outstanding NTD events. Many REI stores focused on trail service projects.



Women Who Hike partnered with American Hiking for NTD for the first year. Local groups organized more than a dozen hikes and trail cleanups in 10 states and Washington D.C..



National Environmental Education Foundation partnered with American Hiking to collaborate and co-promote NTD and National Public Lands Day. NEEF assisted with outreach and communications for NTD



Georgia, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia State Parks organized events at nearly all of their state parks. In many cases, park staff guided hikes, bike rides, and volunteer projects. Washington State Parks made NTD a fee free day.

# SAVE THE DATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY® JUNE 6, 2020

Jan Gottweiss

National Trails Day® would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors and federal partners. These sponsors and partners provide funds and support to successfully plan, implement, and grow this extensive, nationwide program.

We are pleased to recognize their contributions on our website, in social media postings, in press releases and blog articles, and in e-newsletters. Our partners take great pride in supporting advocacy and trail service across the US on National Trails Day®.

## 2019 National Trails Day® Sponsors



## National Trails Day® Federal Partners

