



2023 STATE OF THE TRAILS

In 2023, more than 17,106 volunteers donated 718,127 service hours, valued at \$22,836,865 on National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Each year, Partnership for the National Trails System members and Federal agency partners contribute information to showcase key facts and highlights that demonstrate the range and variety of resources, values, connections, and benefits the National Trails System provides to the nation. While some of the information is not holistic or may be tracked irregularly or with varying degrees of certainty, it provides a snapshot of the work and progress made each year by the nonprofit organizations and Federal partners that work together throughout the year to create and sustain a vibrant, world class National Trails System for all.

National Scenic & Historic Trails

The 32 National Scenic & Historic Trails (NSHT) authorized by Congress

- 21 National Historic Trails
- 11 National Scenic Trails

Over +59k miles of NSHT designated to date

- 37,400+ miles as part of National Historic Trails
- 17,900+ miles as part of National Scenic Trails

National Trails connect people and landscapes

NSHT connect and travel through:

- 390+ National parks, forests, wildlife refuges, nationally designated wilderness areas
- 230+ Major urban areas and 'Trail Towns'
- 100+ Bureau of Land Management areas, and more

Engagement

2,448 programs were conducted including:

- 542 were designed to highlight/expand diversity on the trail
- 312 were virtual

Programs engaged 165,251 people including:

- 41,344 youth K-12
- 16,191 young adults 18-25
- 990 Veterans

1,290,265 social media users follow trail organizations across all platforms. Apps, recordings or other educational resources engaged people in the trail 4,725,596 times in 2023.

Collaboration

196 State, Tribal, regional, and local government agencies have played an active role in managing and sustaining trails through formal agreements.

72 Indigenous communities or nations collaborated with NSHT organizations or Federal agencies in sustaining and supporting trails.

Land Protection & Restoration

4,179 miles of trail were permanently preserved 3,587,406 acres of viewshed were protected

5919 miles of trail were maintained or built in 2023.

- 83 miles of trail were constructed
- 97 miles of trail were reconstructed
- 5,739 miles of trail were maintained
- 1,246 maintenance and construction projects were executed

Qualified Service or Corps members spent 50,473 hours performing maintenance or construction activities.

In 2023, 116 sites were evaluated for their relationship and/or significance to an NSHT, 47 High Potential Sites were marked or interpreted, while 368 High Potential Sites were reported to be facing threats due to disrepair, development or other challenges.

Local Impact

262 communities participated in Trail Towns or gateway programs organized by NSHT organizations.

Gateway Communities or Trail Towns programs are coordinated by several NSHT nonprofit organizations to promote local communities and attract visitors and tourists to local businesses, resulting in increased foot traffic and increased recognition of both towns and trails.

Visitation & Accessibility

The majority of NSHT reported an increase in use in 2023 despite 578 acres of trail land being damaged by natural disaster (wildfires/floods/etc) and 64 trail miles being closed for longer than 4 months. Trails overcame challenges including:

- Wildfire
- Record snow pack
- Storm events & hurricanes
- Sign destruction
- Flooding
- Trail closures
- Erosion
- Falling Trees