

Rails-to-Trails
Conservancy—
creating a nationwide
network of trails
from former rail lines
and connecting
corridors to build
healthier places
for healthier people.



rails-to-trails
conservancy

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www.railstotrails.org

Offices in California, Florida, Massachusetts,
Ohio and Pennsylvania

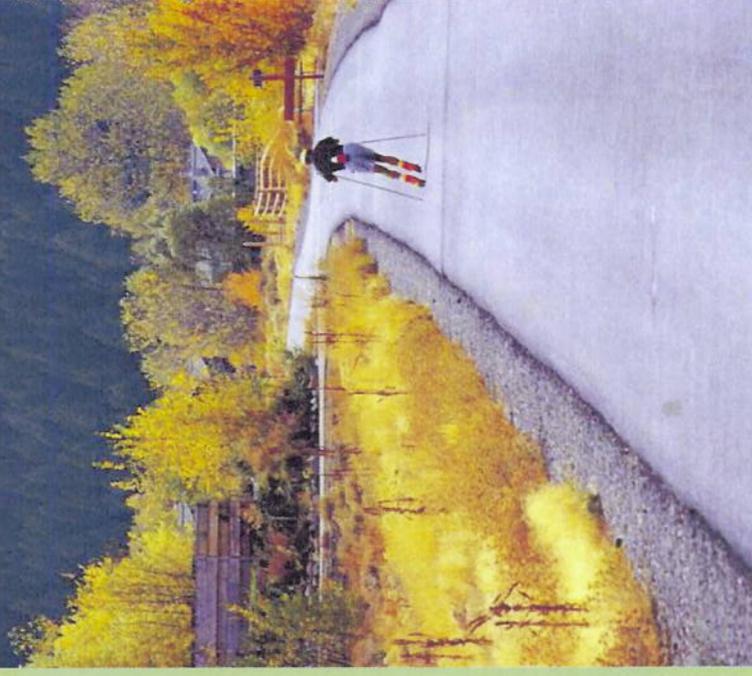


rails-to-trails
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Successful Strategies For Trail Development

WORKSHOP

JACK WILLIAMS



SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

is a service of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), the nation's largest trail advocacy organization.

With over 20 years of rail-trail development experience, RTC is uniquely positioned to provide training in trail development strategies whether you are a trail advocate, park and recreation specialist, community development agency, bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, trail manager or public official.

Successful Strategies for Trail Development, is a comprehensive one-day course providing resources and strategies for trail building. The workshop focuses on key trail development topics such as acquiring corridors, designing and managing trails, locating funding, working with trail opponents, building partnerships and constituencies, responding to concerns such as crime, property values and liability, and involving the media. Also included are the latest facts and figures on the benefits of trails. Participants receive a full resource manual complete with fact sheets and studies.

Workshops can be tailored to meet the unique training needs of your community.



BOYD LOVING



TOPICS COVERED

- ▶ History of the trails movement
- ▶ Benefits
 - Transportation
 - Health
 - Economic
 - Environmental
 - Historic preservation
- ▶ Acquisition
- ▶ Railbanking
- ▶ Community outreach
- ▶ Funding sources and strategies
- ▶ Liability
- ▶ Crime
- ▶ Property values
- ▶ Trail design
- ▶ Management and maintenance

“Thank you so much for all you have done. Together we have truly changed the course of trails and greenways in our state. Your professionalism and dedication made all the difference in the success of this venture.”

— JEAN WALLACE, HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

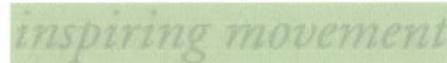
RECENT WORKSHOPS

- ▶ Helena, Montana — Montana Trails Conference
- ▶ Denver, Colorado — Colorado Trails Symposium
- ▶ Bloomington, Indiana — Successful Strategies Workshop
- ▶ Red Top Mountain, Georgia — Successful Strategies Workshop
- ▶ Burlington, Iowa — Successful Strategies Workshop
- ▶ Fayetteville, Arkansas — The Arkansas Trails and Greenways Forum
- ▶ Providence, Rhode Island — International Trails and Greenways Conference

CONTACT US

For more information about the Successful Strategies for Trail Development Workshop including bookings and fees please contact:

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Trail Funding:

Funding trails and greenways takes a bit of ingenuity and a lot of research. Though Rails-to-Trails Conservancy does not directly fund trails, between federal, state and local government funding mechanisms as well as grants, private partnerships and other creative funding methods, there are many ways to fund your trails and greenways.

Federal funding mechanisms include not only transportation and park programs, but also brownfield, community development and arts programs. Funding through state and local governments can be found in the departments of health, parks and transportation. So many communities have also passed referenda to specifically fund trail and greenway projects.

Many foundations and companies provide grants for trail and greenway projects, open space preservation, community development and community health.

Don't forget to explore the possibility of creating partnerships to build and maintain your greenway. These can be important for not only constructing and maintaining your project, but also building community pride.

Communities across the country have raised money for development and maintenance of trails and greenways through various fundraising campaigns.

Click here to search our [funding database](#), with information on various trail funding opportunities at the national- and state-levels.



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I want to:

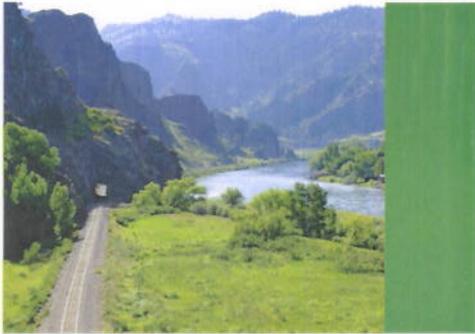
- [find a trail](#)
- [build a trail](#)
- [take action](#)
- [contact RTC](#)
- [register](#)
- [login](#)
- [donate](#)
- [shop](#)

resources:

- [trail building](#)
- [2010 Campaign](#)
- [for the press](#)



Spring 2008 Issue



Acquiring Corridors

Acquiring rail corridors for trail development is complex and requires an understanding of corridor ownership, railroad company negotiation techniques, and purchasing options. The following resources will give you a step-by-step guide for this process as well as prepare you to address detailed questions.

Getting started...

Acquiring Rail Corridors: A How To Manual. Allen, Jeff and Tom Iurino. 1996. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. (Chapter 1, Getting Started)
www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Determining corridor ownership...

Who Actually Owns the ROW? 2007. Rails-to Trails Conservancy.
www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Negotiating with the railroad...

Secrets of Successful Rail-Trails. Ryan, Karen-Lee and Julie Winterich. 1993. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. (Chapter 9)
www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Acquisition strategies (purchasing, easements, etc)...

Trails for the Twenty-First Century Second Edition: Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails. Flink, Charles.A., Kristine Olka, and Robert M. Searns. 2001. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press. (Chapter 4, p121-123)

Additional Resources...

Secrets of Successful Rail-Trails. Ryan, Karen-Lee and Julie Winterich. 1993. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.
www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Overview: Abandonments & Alternatives to Abandonments. Surface Transportation Board. 1997. Washington, DC: Office of Public Services, Surface Transportation Board.

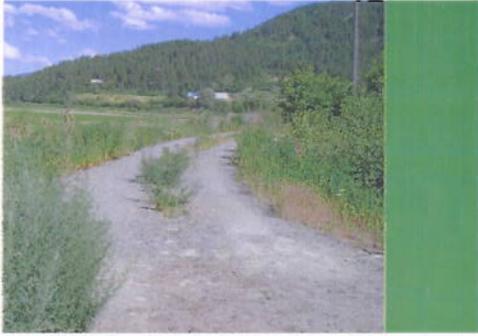
www.stb.dot.gov/stb/docs/Abandonments%20and%20Alternatives1.pdf

Conservation Easement Handbook, Second Edition. 2005. Byers, Elizabeth and Karin Marchetti Ponte. Washington, DC: Land Trust Alliance and San Francisco, CA: The Trust for Public Land

www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=19577&folder_id=175

Conservation Options for Landowners. Land Trust Alliance.

www.lta.org/consERVE/options.htm



Railbanking

Railbanking is an efficient method of creating trails on preserved rail corridors. The following resources cover many of the major topics associated with railbanking, including background information, legal issues, templates, statistics, standards and guidelines.

Introduction to railbanking...

Railbanking and Rail-trails: A Legacy for the Future. **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.** **March 2005.**

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

How railbanking works...

Trail Use under the National Trails System Act. Opal, Robert T. June 2003.
(Written by the General Commerce and Federal Railroad Association Counsel for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.)

Legal issues...

Rails-to-Trails Conversions: A Review of Legal Issues. **Ferster, Andrea C.** **September 2006.** *Planning and Environmental Law.* American Planning Association, Vol. 58, No. 9 p 3.

www.railtrails.org/resources/documents/resource_docs/RailstoTrailsConversionCommentary.pdf

How to railbank and railbanking letter template...

Railbanking: What, Where, Why, When, and How. **2007.** **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.**

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

The railbanking act...

National Trails Systems Act. **United States Code. Volume 16, Sections 1241–1251.**
www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html

Additional Resources...

Abandonments and Alternatives to Abandonments. 1997. Office of Public Services, Surface Transportation Board. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation.
www.stb.dot.gov/stb/docs/Abandonments%20and%20Alternatives1.pdf



Funding

Without funding, a trail plan will never get off the ground. In this section you will find resources on federal funding opportunities, local funding sources, and private foundations

SAFETEA-LU...

Highlights of the new Federal Transportation Law: Trail/Bicycle/Pedestrian Provisions in SAFETEA-LU. 2007. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Fact Sheet.

www.railstotrails.org

New federal funding (SAFETEA-LU overview)...

Building a Legacy: Life After Reauthorization. Bamberger, Joanne. 2006. *Rails to Trails Magazine* (Winter 2006).

Federal funding (SAFETEA-LU funding sources)...

Fact Sheets for Highway Provisions in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

- Recreational Trails
- Safe Routes to School
- Transportation Enhancements
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement

August 2005. Federal Highway Administration, Office of Legislation and Strategic Planning. www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets.htm

Local funding sources...

Local Funding Sources. 2007. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Fact Sheet.

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Rail-trails and utilities...

Rail Trails and Utilities. 2007. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Fact Sheet.

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Private foundations...

Foundation Center Fact Sheet. www.foundationcenter.org

Additional Resources...

Enhancing America's Communities: A Guide to TE. National Transportation Enhancements Clearing house. 2007. www.enhancements.org/publications.asp

Transportation Enhancements: A Summary of Nationwide Spending as of FY 2006: A Guide to TE. National Transportation Enhancements Clearing house. 2007. www.enhancements.org/publications.asp



Community Outreach & Common Concerns

Community outreach is an important component of every trail project and can not only lead to increased trail support, but a superior trail. The following resources will help you gather community support, coordinate community outreach, and address common concerns such as liability and crime.

Steps for community outreach

Meeting in a Box. 2007. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Working with the opposition...

Working with Trail Opponents. 2007. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Rail-Trails and Community Sentiment: A Study of Opposition to Rail-Trails & Strategies for Success. Doherty, Susan. January 1998. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Addressing liability...

Rail-Trails and Liability, A Primer on Trail-Related Liability Issues and Risk Management Techniques. Morris, Hugh. September 2000. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. (p 4–12)

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Addressing crime...

Rail-Trails and Safe Communities. Tracy, Tammy and Hugh Morris. January 1998. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. (p. 2–19).

www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Additional Resources...

Landowner Liability. Burghardt, Tina. 1996. International Mountain Bicycling Association. www.imba.com/resources/trail_issues/land_liability.html

Rural Landowner Liability for Recreational Injuries: Myths, Perceptions, and Realities. Wright, B.A., R.A. Kaiser, and S. Nicholls. 2002. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*. Vol. 57, Number 3, Pg. 183–191.

Liability Insurance. Land Trust Alliance. www.lta.org/resources/insurance.shtml

Economic Impacts of Rivers, Trails and Greenways: Property Values. Chapter 1: Real Property Values. National Park Service. 1995. Pg 1–13.

www.nps.gov/pwro/rtca/propval.htm

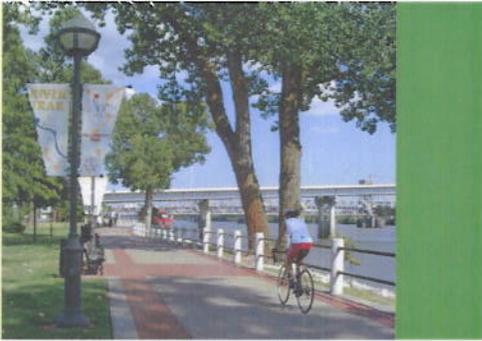
Trail Effects on Neighborhoods: Home Value, Safety, Quality of Life. American Trails. Spring 2000. www.americantrails.org/resources/adjacent/sumadjacent.html

The Effect of Greenways on Property Values and Public Safety. A joint study: The Conservation Fund and Colorado State Parks State Trails Program. March 1995.

The Impact of Greenways on Property Values: Evidence from Austin, Texas. Crompton, John and Sarah Nicholls. 2005. *Journal of Leisure Research*, Vol. 37, 2005.

The Economic Value of Open Space. Implications for Land Use Decisions. Wilder Research. October 2005.

Trails for the Twenty-First Century. Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails. Flink, Charles.A., Kristine Olka, and Robert M. Searns. 2001. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press. Chapter 2. Pg. 43–46.



Trail Design

Design is an essential component in the creation of a successful trail. Thoughtful trail planning and design is one of the best ways to ensure a safe and enjoyable trail experience. The following resources cover many of the major topics associated with trail design including standards and guidelines, accessibility, safety, and natural resource protection.

Introduction to design...

Evolution by Design. Yandik, Willy. Summer 2001. *Rails to Trails Magazine*. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. (p16–19)

Designing your trail...

Trails for the Twenty-First Century Second Edition: Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails. Flink, Charles.A., Kristine Olka, and Robert M. Searns. 2001. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press. (Chapter 3: Designing Your Trail)

Crossings/intersections...

Trail Intersection Design Handbook. Florida Department of Transportation. (p 2–9; 3–8)

www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/handbooks_and_research/TRAILINT.pdf

Developing pedestrian facilities (Federal Guidelines)...

Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities. 2004. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. (p vii–5)

Developing bicycle facilities (Federal Guidelines)...

Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. 1999. (Table of Contents)
http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/docs/b_aashtobik.pdf

Designing trails for accessibility...

Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Part II. Federal Highway Administration. 2001. (Chapter 14: Shared-Use Path Designs)
www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalks214.htm

Designing for wildlife...

Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind. Trails and Wildlife Task Force, Colorado State Parks. 1998. Hellmund Associates. (p 27–32)
www.rmc.ca.gov/grants/resources/trailshandbook.pdf

Additional Resources...

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices: for Streets and Highways. (Federal Guidelines) U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003.
<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1/pdf-index.htm>

Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Part I. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 1999. www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/access-1.htm

The National Bicycling and Walking Study: Transportation Choices for a Changing America. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 1994. Publication FHWA-PD-94-023.

Handbook for Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance: North Country National Scenic Trail. National Park Service.
www.nps.gov/noco/parkmgmt/ncttrailconstructionmanual1.htm

Evaluation of Planning and Design Issues for Multiuse Trails and Highway Crossings. Gittings, G.L., D. J. Torbic, and L. A. Zangwill. 1996. Washington, D.C.: Transportation Research Board. www.americantrails.org/resources/trans/docs/evalcrossingtrb.pdf

Wetland Trails Design and Construction. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/01232833/toc.htm

Tunnels on Trails: A Study of 78 Tunnels on 36 Trails in the United States. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. 2001.
www.railtrails.org/resources/documents/resource_docs/tunnels.pdf

Bicycle Parking Guidelines. Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. Adopted 2002. www.bfbc.org/issues/parking/apbp-bikeparking.pdf



Management and Maintenance

Effective management and maintenance of a trail starts with determining who should manage the trail and what activities are associated with successful management. Managing the trail should never be an afterthought. The following resources will provide valuable information as you consider budgetary issues, staffing, and equipment related to the long-term maintenance of your rail trail.

Overview of what managers should know...

Trails for the Twenty-First Century Second Edition: Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails. Flink, Charles.A., Kristine Olka, and Robert M. Searns. 2001. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Washington, Covelo, London: Island Press. (Chapter 5, p 140-160)

Checklist for maintenance...

Maintenance Checklist for Greenways and Urban Trails. Wagner, Jed. 1999. Denver Department of Parks and Recreation.

www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/MaintCheck.html

Survey of trail managers and a current report on maintenance topics...

Rail-Trail Maintenance & Operation: Ensuring the Future of Your Trail – A Survey of 100 Rail-Trails. 2005. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Additional Resources...

Operations, Maintenance, and Stewardship 101. Searns, Robert. Fall 2005. Trail Track www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/searnsmaint101.html

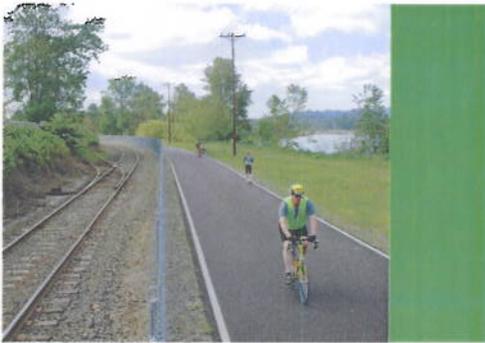
Maintenance Management Systems for Trails. Bachensky, Lois. October, 2000. Rocky Mountain Region: United States Forest Service. www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/BuildMaintSys.html

Guide to Trail Management. The Fairfax County Park Authority. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/TrailManagement/Guide.pdf

Trail Management Guide. Daniels, Jane, Walt Daniels, Stella Green and Bob Jonas. January, 2001. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. www.nynjtc.org/committees/trailsCouncil/trmanguide.html

Trail Management Plan and Proposal Calais Branch Corridor. Maine Department of Transportation and Maine Department of Conservation. www.hpcme.org/transportation/sunrise/plans/DESTPlan022306.pdf

Suggestions for preventing illegal motorized use on non-motorized trails. February, 2002. Trails and Greenways e-mail discussion group. www.americantrails.org/resources/ManageMaintain/Prevent.html



Rail-with-Trail

Placing trails alongside active rail corridors can be an excellent method of securing land for safe, popular and effective trail development. The following resources cover topics associated with rail-with-trail design guidelines, operating characteristics and lessons learned from trail projects.

Overview...

The Truth about Rails with Trails. Vernarelli, Mark. September, 2005. Trains Magazine. www.trainsmag.com (p 50-55)

Analysis of existing rails-with-trails...

Rails-with-Trails: Design, Management, and Operating Characteristics of 61 Trails Along Active Rail Lines. 2000. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/resources/documents.html

Development, construction, and operation ...

Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned. 2002. Alta Planning + Design and the U.S. Department of Transportation. www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/rwt/ (Executive Summary p I-X)

Design suggestions...

Rail-with-Trail Design Guidelines. February 2004. Southern California Regional Rail Authority and Metrolink. Los Angeles, Calif.

Additional Resources...

Trails and High-Speed Rail: Are they compatible? Burk, Mia. December 2003. The National Center for Bicycling and Walking Forum. Article 12-03-01. www.bikewalk.org/pdfs/forumarch0104trails.pdf