



2021 STATE OF THE TRAILS

In 2021, more than 24,900 volunteers donated 819,273 service hours, valued at \$ 23,382,051, on National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Each year, Partnership for the National Trails System collects information for the State of the Trails report from its members and Federal agency partners 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 (NSHT)

The 30 National Scenic & Historic Trails are authorized by Congress.

- 19 National Historic Trails
- 11 National Scenic Trails

Over 55,000 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 land management areas



Vistitation and Accessibility

The majority of NSHTs reported an increase in use again in 2021 despite 371 acres of trail land and 224 miles of trail being damaged by natural disaster (wildfires/floods/etc) and 162 trail miles being closed for longer than 4 months.



Engagement

11,415 Programs Were Conducted

- 10,603 were designed to highlight/expand diversity on the trail
- 55 benefited veterans
- 373 were virtual

258,061 People Were Engaged

- 25,517 K-12
- 1,578 18-25
- 552 Service or Conservation Corps Members

Individuals from qualified youth service or corps program spent 13,955 hours involved in planning, promotion or delivery of educational and/or cultural activities, events or programs.

Land Protection and Restoration



858 Miles Of Trail Were Permanently Preserved

- 97% is on public land within dedicated management areas
- 3% is on other land and/or acquired easements

5,745,398 Acres of Viewshed Were Protected

- 62% is on public land within dedicated management areas
- 38% is on other land and/or acquired easements

10,994 Miles Of Trail Were Constructed or Maintained

113 new trail miles were built, 23 miles closed gaps, and 11 side or connecting trail miles were added. 78 trail miles of trail were reconstructed.

1,194 Maintenance and Construction Activities

Individuals from qualified youth service or corps program spent 76,806 hours performing maintenance or construction activities.

In 2021, 74 sites were evaluated for their relationship and/or significance to an NHST, 47 High Potential Sites were marked or interpreted, while 435 High Potential Sites were reported to be facing threats due to disrepair, development or other challenges.

Local Impact



230 communities participate in trail towns or gateway programs by NSHT organizations.

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

Collaboration



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

189 Indigenous communities or nations collaborated with NHST organizations or Federal agencies in sustaining and supporting trails.

69% of the U.S. population lives within approximately a one hour drive of a National Scenic or Historic Trail

Source: Based on 2020 U.S. Census Data