

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Trails: The Intersection between Communities and Public Lands

Maryland Outdoor Recreation Summit





Indiana's Cardinal Greenway



Illinois' Hennepin Canal Parkway



Montana's Headwaters Trail System

THE NATION'S LARGEST TRAILS, WALKING AND BIKING
ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

Our Mission

We are building a nation connected by trails, reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors.



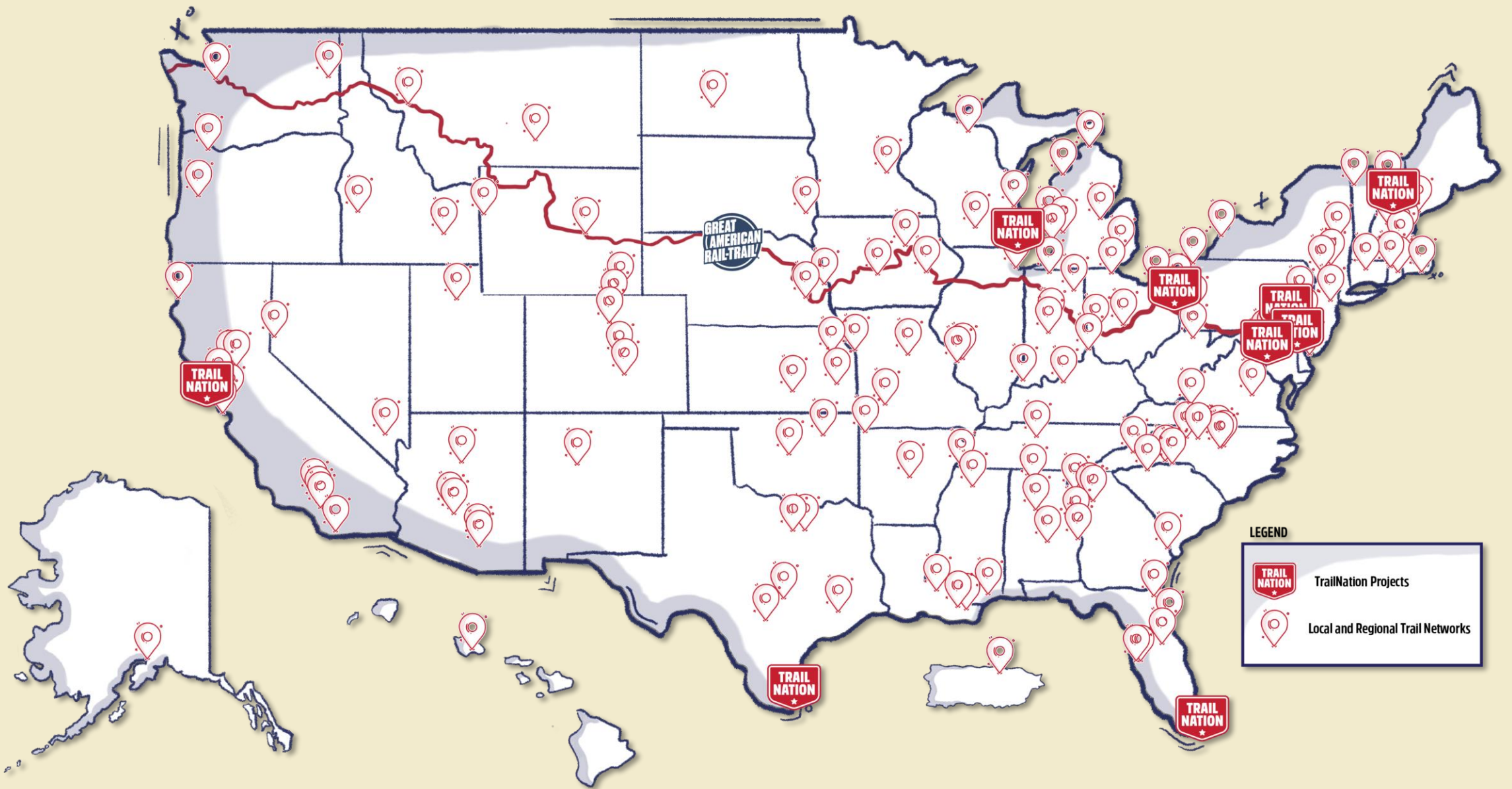
Washington D.C's Met Branch Trail

Flagship Initiatives



**GREAT
AMERICAN
RAIL-TRAIL®**

**★ TRAIL
NATION**



railstotrails.org/trailnation/#map

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



INFRASTRUCTURE

We will proliferate the development of trail and active transportation networks nationwide.



INVESTMENT

We will grow public funding to create, connect and maintain trails, while improving the effectiveness of those resources and creating new opportunities for investment.



EQUITY

We will catalyze the development of community-driven trail and active-transportation networks with the aim to increase trail use and the proximity of trail networks to underserved and under-resourced communities.



PARTICIPATION

We will encourage and inspire more people to use trails across the country, hastening a culture shift where communities demand trail systems as essential for their well-being and the well-being of the places they live.

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL®



EXISTING TRAILS

TRAIL GAPS



National Mall, Eastern Terminus of the Great American Rail-Trail

THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL:


\$229.4M
IN VISITOR SPENDING


2,500
NEW JOBS


\$22.8M
IN NEW TAX REVENUE


25.6M TRIPS



MARYLAND
200 miles
\$43.3M
visitor spending
8.6M trips



Moving Projects Forward

Select Elements from TrailNation
Playbook

STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING TRAIL NETWORKS

TrailNation Playbook

Efforts to advance trail networks require a comprehensive approach that accounts for partnership, mapping and analysis, public and stakeholder engagement, and funding.



railstotrails.org/trailnation/playbook



ESTABLISH A VISION

SINGLE PROJECT OR NETWORK

- Sets scope and impact of the trail project or network
- When developing a cohesive project or network vision:
 - ▷ Think big
 - ▷ Tie it to existing initiatives or planning processes
 - ▷ Gather input from diverse stakeholders
 - ▷ Use a professional facilitator

Involve Everyone!

- Elected Officials
- Trail Planners
- Advocates
- Local/Regional/State Agencies
- Economic Development Orgs/Chambers
- Main Street Organizations



RTC President Ryan Chao and former Executive Director of Maine's Eastern Trail, Jon Kachmar

Major Federal Funding Sources

- RAISE
- Reconnecting Communities
- Safe Streets and Roads for All
- Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)
- Transportation Alternatives (operated through state)
- Recreational Trails Program (operated through state)

railstotrails.org/funding



Trails and Public Lands

Select Projects on the Great American
Rail-Trail

Multi-County Initiatives



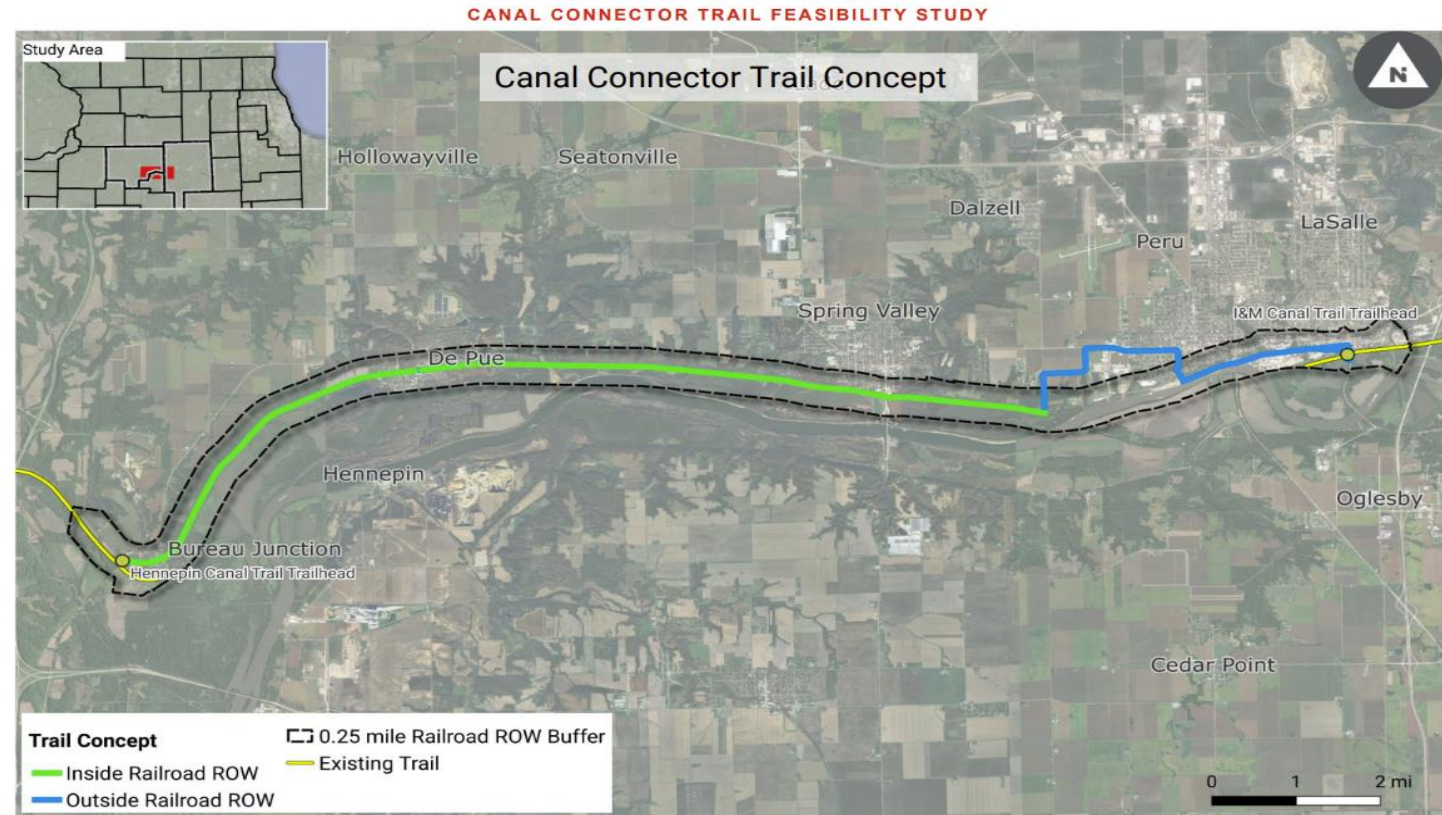
PUGET SOUND TO PACIFIC

FY2023 RAISE PLANNING GRANT REQUEST

For Gaps, Community Connections and Safety Improvements on the Olympic Discovery Trail and Sound to Olympics Trail, the western end of the Great American Rail-Trail.



Regional Priorities



Iconic Projects

