



*Purpose and History*  
**27th California Trails & Greenways Conference**  
Woodland Hills Marriott, April 18 to 20, 2012  
*Serving California's Trail Professionals & Advocates*

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The California Trails & Greenways Conference provides a forum for networking and building support for accessible, inter-connected, quality trail systems; and a venue for trail professionals and advocates to learn practical, up-to-date trail skills. This endeavor by California State Parks and the California Trails Conference Foundation helps ensure effective trail stewardship and leadership for generations to come.

The California Trails & Greenways Conference provides opportunities to:

- Network with, and talk directly to, California's leading trail experts
- Find collaborative partners to build support for trail endeavors
- Learn a full range of trail topics in high quality, innovative sessions
- Experience hands-on learning through day-long field workshops
- Address your specific concerns through our table topic sessions
- Explore exhibits featuring innovative trail-related products and services

All activities are designed to increase the knowledge of trail, recreation and wild land management professionals and advocates, both novice and expert, in order to improve non-motorized, recreational and heritage trail systems and programs throughout California.

**About the 2012 Conference.** The 27<sup>th</sup> California Trails & Greenways Conference will be held at the Woodland Hills Marriott in Los Angeles County from Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. With attendance expected to exceed 400, this year's conference will provide valuable insights into linking desired trail improvements to transportation funding, the expanding role of trails in fostering health and well-being, and exploring a wide variety of partnership tools (such as joint powers authorities and cooperative agreements) in a dense urban environment.

The Conference provides valuable opportunities for trail leaders through Sponsorships and our Exhibit Hall. Solicitations for conference session proposals and award nominations, as well as sponsor and exhibit information are available at [www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference). Conference registration will begin in late February. To be added to our contact list and for further inquiries email [trails@parks.ca.gov](mailto:trails@parks.ca.gov) or call 877.776.3619.

**Conference History.** The Conference was developed by California State Parks and the California Recreational Trails Committee in 1984 to address the growing demand for technical assistance by trail professionals and volunteers throughout California. California State Parks' Planning Division (through the Statewide Trails Section) and other agencies and nonprofit organizations contribute valuable in-kind services, off-setting much of the Conference costs through their donations of staff time and services.

In 1995, the California Trails Conference Foundation [a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation] was formed to assist State Parks in carrying out the goals of the Conference. The Foundation's volunteer governing board is made up of two board members and one paid executive director. With the Foundation serving as the fiscal agent, the Conference is self-funded through sponsorships, exhibits and registration fees. Conference attendance has more than doubled over the past five years. In 2011, 95% of Conference attendees indicated complete satisfaction with their conference experience.

**Commitment to High Quality Training.** A large factor in the Conference's success is the donation of time and expertise in the preparation and delivery of workshop and session presentations. In 2011, over 40 concurrent sessions and day-long workshops were featured, involving over 100 trail experts. This tradition of "paying it forward" is a hallmark of the trails culture and has served as an invaluable tool for fostering good-will among trail advocates.

California State Parks and the Statewide Trails Section are committed to planning and organizing the California Trails & Greenways Conference because trails serve a vital role in providing for the health,

inspiration and education of the people of California, as well as significantly enhance Californians' understanding of the need to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protect its most valued natural and cultural resources, and create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

**Legislative Background.** California State Parks' support of this training meets the Department's legislative mandate under the Public Resources Code, as follows:

*5070.5. The Legislature hereby declares that it is the policy of the state to:*

*(a) Increase accessibility and enhance the use, enjoyment, and understanding of California's scenic, natural, historic, and cultural resources.*

*(b) Encourage hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling as important contributions to the health and welfare of the state's population.*

*(c) Provide for the use of recreational trails by physically disabled persons, the elderly, and others in need of graduated trails with special safety features, particularly in conjunction with heritage corridors.*

*(d) Increase opportunities for recreational boating on designated waterways.*

*(f) Provide for the development and maintenance of a statewide system of recreational and interpretive trails, including heritage corridors.*

*(g) Increase the recreational and educational use of public roads by developing guides, maps, and other interpretive materials concerning significant historical, agricultural, scenic, and other resource areas.*

*(h) Encourage the development by cities, counties, districts, and private groups of recreational and interpretive trails, including heritage corridors.*

Training trail professionals and community leaders also benefits the following state and federal programs:

- *The California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights* [www.calroundtable.org](http://www.calroundtable.org)
- *California's Climate Plan AB 32/SB 375 Transportation Goals*  
<http://www.climateplanca.org/resources.html>
- *California State Parks Accessibility Program*  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21944/files/trailplandec2003updated.pdf>
- *Strategic Growth Council SB 732* <http://www.sgc.ca.gov>
- *Governor's Fitness Challenge* [http://www.calgovcouncil.org/about\\_the\\_council/](http://www.calgovcouncil.org/about_the_council/)
- *National Park Service National Trails System Act*  
<http://www.nps.gov/nts/legislation.html>
- *Facilities planning to meet The Americans with Disabilities Act* <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/html/adaag.htm>
- *National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund*  
<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf>
- *US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System Roads and Trails Program* <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/roads>
- *Federal Department of Transportation Strategic Plan FY 2010-2015*  
([http://www.dot.gov/stratplan/dot\\_strategic\\_plan\\_10-15.pdf](http://www.dot.gov/stratplan/dot_strategic_plan_10-15.pdf))
- *Safe Routes to Schools* <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>
- *National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program*  
<http://www.nps.gov/hcra/programs/rtca>
- *Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program*  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recretrails/index.htm>
- *Bureau of Land Management National Scenic and Historic Trails*  
[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/NLCS/Trails.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/NLCS/Trails.html)
- *USDA Forest Service Recreation Programs* <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- *US DOT, HUD and EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities*  
[http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/partnership\\_year1.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/partnership_year1.pdf)
- *First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign*  
<http://www.letsmove.gov/letsmoveoutside.php>

**California Trails Conference Foundation**

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[www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference)