



Purpose and History
26th California Trails & Greenways Conference
San Ramon Marriott, April 11 to 13, 2011
Celebrating 26 Years of Service
to California's Trail Professionals & Advocates

The California Trails & Greenways Conference provides non-motorized trail professionals, advocates and volunteers with a venue for learning practical, up-to-date trail management skills; as well as a forum for networking and building support for accessible, inter-connected, quality trail systems. For over 25 years, this investment in our trail leaders by California State Parks and the California Trails Conference Foundation helps ensure stewardship and leadership for generations to come.

This interactive conference forum provides:

- High quality, innovative sessions covering the full range of trail topics, including current issues facing the trails community;
- Day-long pre-conference field workshops providing hands-on learning;
- A forum to address the evolving needs of California's diverse trail community including a public meeting of the California Recreational Trails Committee;
- Opportunities to network with other trail advocates to build support for local and statewide trail systems; and
- Exhibits of 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 the field; in order to improve trail systems and programs throughout California.

About the 2011 Conference

The 26th California Trails & Greenways Conference will be held at the San Ramon Marriott at the base of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, from Monday, April 11th through Wednesday, April 13th. This year's conference venue will highlight the skills and wisdom of one of the most progressive and diverse trails communities in the nation. With an estimated attendance of 300, the conference provides valuable opportunities for Sponsors and Exhibitors. Solicitations for conference session proposals and award nominations, as well as sponsor and exhibit information are available at 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 or call **877.776.3619**.

Conference History & General Information

The Conference was developed by California State Parks and the California Recreational Trails Committee in 1984 to address the needs of trail managers 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 donation 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 consists of a volunteer governing board and one paid executive director. With the Foundation serving as the fiscal agent, the Conference is funded through sponsorships, exhibit and registration fees. Attendance has doubled over the last five years, with 94% of trail professionals and advocates indicating complete satisfaction with their conference experience.

Legislative Background

California State Parks' support of this exceptional training opportunity meets our 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.

Related Government Programs

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
- *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/
- *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
- *Safe Routes to Schools* <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>
- *National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program*
<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca>
- *Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program*
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/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
- *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
- *First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign*
<http://www.letsmove.gov/letsmoveoutside.php>

California Trails Conference Foundation

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