

March 2019

Dear Trail Enthusiast:

The Coalition for Recreational Trails, a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations, is pleased to announce its 2019 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the national Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The awards will be presented in Washington, D.C. during Great Outdoors Month® in June 2019 as part of the Coalition's ongoing effort to build awareness and appreciation of this highly successful program, which has greatly enhanced the quantity and quality of trail experiences available to the public. We will be holding the awards ceremony on Capitol Hill and will encourage Members of Congress to join us in honoring the outstanding achievements of their constituents.

Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 2010 are ineligible. Project award categories will include: construction and design; maintenance and rehabilitation; public-private partnerships and access to public lands; community linkage; education and communication; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management and "corridor sharing"; use of youth conservation/service corps and community outreach; engaging public-sector partners; and enhancement of federal lands.

We invite you to nominate an outstanding project and to encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination as well. A nomination form is enclosed for your use. **We are also again encouraging those making nominations to solicit support from their Members of Congress – both U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators – to build awareness of excellent RTP-funded projects and the RTP program itself.** Additional information can be found on the nomination form.

[SEE NOMINATION FORM BELOW]

The nomination form and any supporting materials, including pictures, should be returned by e-mail by May 1, 2019 to the Chair of the Coalition's Awards Committee: Duane Taylor, Executive Director, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, at [coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call him at (703) 416-0444 or send him an e-mail. Winners should be notified no later than May 10, 2019.

Information on each winning project will be featured on the website of American Trails. In addition, it is important to note that photos and other materials included as part of the nominations are often used to highlight RTP projects in the Federal Highway Administration Annual Report, CRT's Facebook page, and in the online RTP Database image gallery. As a result, simply nominating your project may result in increased exposure for your project!

We hope you will join us in this important effort to recognize the significant contributions to trail-related recreation that the Recreational Trails Program is supporting all across the country.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Recreational Trails



**COALITION  
FOR  
RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS**

**Coalition for Recreational Trails**  
**Recreational Trails Program Achievement Awards**  
**2019 Nomination Form**

**PROJECT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AWARD CATEGORIES** (mark all that apply and please be sure to explain why this project should be recognized in this particular category or, if applicable, in several categories)

- Maintenance and Rehabilitation* – maintaining, repairing damage to, or upgrading the quality of a trail to improve the trail experience, increase user safety, and/or enhance protection of the environment, including wildlife
- Construction and Design* – planning and building a trail, portions of a trail (e.g., a bridge), or trail-related facilities (e.g., a trailhead, shelter, etc.)
- Public-Private Partnerships and Access to/Use of Public Lands* – facilitating and/or encouraging cost-effective partnerships between public and private entities, especially to increase access to and use of federal, state and local public lands, including parks, forests and wildlife refuges
- Community Linkage* – providing and/or enhancing opportunities for trail-based recreation and transportation within or near local communities
- Education and Communication* – utilizing a variety of established and/or technologically innovative communications tools (e.g., web sites, social media and peer-to-peer information sharing) to increase environmental awareness, promote trail-related safety, encourage trail-related outdoor recreation and, overall, enhance trail use and enjoyment
- Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing* – facilitating and/or encouraging the use of a trail corridor by more than one type of trail enthusiast, particularly those enthusiasts that do not ordinarily share trails or trail-related facilities
- Accessibility Enhancement* – facilitating and/or encouraging increased access to trail-related recreation opportunities for people with disabilities
- Youth Conservation/Service Corps and Community Outreach* – making effective use of the services and skills of qualified youth conservation or service corps and other community organizations as project partners and supporters
- Engaging Public-Sector Partners* – engaging and garnering the support of public-sector officials including local, state and federal elected officials or agency personnel for RTP-funded projects or the overall continuation/advancement of the RTP.
- Enhancement of Federal Lands* – planning and building a trail or maintaining and rehabilitating a trail on federally managed lands to enhance the public use and enjoyment of those lands

**PROJECT LOCATION**

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Congressional District \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2019.** Send form and supporting materials **via e-mail** to: Awards Committee Chair Duane Taylor, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, at [coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call (703) 416-0444 or e-mail Duane at the above address. Winners should be notified no later than May 10, 2019. Please note: supporting materials will be retained by the Coalition for Recreational Trails and cannot be returned.



## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

Please provide as complete an application package as possible that illustrates why this project should be recognized. Please include at least three high-resolution photographs (jpg, tif or png format), with captions if possible, as well as brochures or other promotional materials, if available. Additional photographs that show the benefits and appeal of your project are also welcome. And please submit the entire package electronically to Duane Taylor at [coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com).

**\*IMPORTANT\*** *In submitting your nomination, you are granting permission to use the photographs or other supporting materials provided to the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) as part of the Annual Achievement Award nominations to promote the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Uses may include, but are **not limited to**, the following purposes: promoting the RTP projects in the RTP Database, Image Library, and websites; in the RTP Annual Report; in press releases; or for educational purposes, such as, in presentations. Credit will be provided to the photographer when identification of the photographer is provided. You retain all other rights to your photos, and any requests for additional non-commercial uses or for commercial use will be provided to you for approval or not. Please let us know if you do not want your photos used to promote the RTP. Your help in documenting the benefits of the Recreational Trails Program is greatly appreciated.*

## **REACHING OUT TO U.S SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF YOUR RTP PROJECT**

It is important that Members of Congress know about the outstanding RTP-supported projects in their districts/states. Please forward your nomination materials to the Members who represent the district and state where the project is located. Include a short message (sample draft below) about yourself and your organization noting that the nomination materials were prepared for the annual Coalition for Recreational Trails Achievement Awards and asking that the Member provide a letter of support for the nomination.

If you are not sure who the correct U.S. Representative is, please visit the following website to search by zip code:

<http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep?ZIP=>

To find your state's U.S. Senators visit:

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

You may need to contact the Member's office by phone to ask for the appropriate e-mail address to send the materials. Since the RTP is funded through transportation reauthorization legislation, you may ask for the Legislative Assistant that handles transportation issues.

See the next page for a sample message.

## Sample Message:

Dear (Senator/Representative) last name:

Please find attached the nomination materials for an outstanding project that utilized Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds in your (State/District). These materials have been prepared by (insert title, club or agency affiliation) because (insert project name) has proven to be a huge success and, as a result, we have nominated the project for an annual Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) achievement award for outstanding RTP projects. *Please join us in supporting this project by sending a letter supporting the nomination to CRT.*

(Provide information and background about your specific project)

Thank you for taking a look at the nomination materials. A letter of support for (insert project name) can be sent to: Duane Taylor, Coalition for Recreational Trails, 1235 South Clark Street, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22202.

Sincerely

**PAGE 4 OF 4**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 1, 2019.** Send form and supporting materials **via e-mail** to: Awards Committee Chair Duane Taylor, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, at [coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call (703) 416-0444 or e-mail Duane at the above address. Winners should be notified no later than May 10, 2019. Please note: supporting materials will be retained by the Coalition for Recreational Trails and cannot be returned.