

## **Building Partnerships:** Building Partnerships:

Organizations are created when people conclude that a shared goal can be better accomplished by working together in partnership than pursuing it alone as individuals. Likewise, successful organizations often join together in "strategic alliances" with like-minded groups to further their mission. This is certainly true of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Since our creation in 1986, building partnerships has been an essential ingredient in our success. We never could have helped to transform thousands of miles of unused rail corridor into trails without the partnerships we have forged with our members, our funders and our local and national colleagues. The following list is a small but representative sample of the numerous partnerships that are critical to our ongoing efforts to reconnect America with trails and greenways.

### **Advocacy Partners:**

Since 1991, the Transportation Enhancements program at the U.S. Department of Transportation has provided more than \$1.8 billion for bicycle, pedestrian and trails projects in America's communities. The program is scheduled for reauthorization in 2003. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is working in partnership with national and local allies to preserve this vital source of trail funding.

Example Partners:

- [Surface Transportation Policy Project \(STPP\)](#) 
- [Bikes Belong](#) 
- [National Trails Training Partnership](#)

### **Philanthropic Partners:**

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has long enjoyed the support of philanthropic partners that appreciate the contribution that trails and greenways make to protecting our environment and creating healthier, more livable communities.

Example Partners:

- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) 
- [Coca-Cola North America](#) 
- [American Express](#) 

### **State Partners:**

State Departments of Transportation administer the Transportation Enhancements program. State departments of natural resources have responsibility for trail building in many states. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy works closely with state transportation and resource agencies to help align public funding with local trail projects.

Example Partners:

- [California Department of Transportation \(Caltrans\)](#) 

### **Federal Partners:**

As a leading national trails organization, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy enjoys productive partnerships with federal agencies with responsibility for supporting local trail building efforts.

Example Partners:

- [National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse \(NTEC\)](#) 
- [National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program \(RTCA\)](#) 

***Community Partners:***

From Vermont to California, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy engages in regular information exchange with local partners who are developing trails in their community. RTC relies upon local trail advocacy organizations to keep informed about trail project developments. In turn, these organizations rely on RTC for information resources and trail building expertise.

Example Partners:

- [Local Motion \(VT\)](#) 
- [Marin County Bike Group \(CA\)](#) 