



## Rails-To-Trails Special Program Trailmaster Guidelines



The Rails-To-Trails Special Program is sponsored by the Colorado Springs Walking Club. If you still have questions after reading this document, please send an email to [CSWC@AVAClubs.org](mailto:CSWC@AVAClubs.org) for a rapid response.

This AVA Special Program is based upon the efforts of the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy (RTC), an organization attempting to identify, build, and link trails together. Although their focus is primarily on creating trails on abandoned rail lines (rail-trails), and trails next to active rail lines (rails-with-trails), they support and try to connect with any multiuse trail currently in existence. These include canals and non-RTT greenways. Only a trail identified in the category 'rail-trail' in the database qualifies for the special program. To retrieve only the rail-trail category from the database requires you apply a filter to the search. See below.

We also support as a qualifier a trail segment identified as 'Rails-With-Trails'. There is no database, but the RTC publishes a document that lists trails that have been identified as such. Download the most current document at [https://AVAClubs.org/CSWC/RTT/Rail-with-Trail\\_List.pdf](https://AVAClubs.org/CSWC/RTT/Rail-with-Trail_List.pdf), search for your state, and identify the trail you are looking for.

If you are unable to identify the trail segment you are walking on using the searches above, your trail does not qualify to be identified as part of the AVA Rails-To-Trails Special Program. If you have found a trail you think will qualify, join the RTC and submit it to them for inclusion into their program. Once they accept it, you can then include your event in the special program.

### **What is a Rail-Trail?**

Rail-trails are multipurpose public paths created from former railroad corridors. These paths are flat or gently sloping, making them easily accessible and a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Rail-trails are ideal for many types of activities--depending on the rules established by the local community--including walking, bicycling, wheelchair use, inline skating, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Search for these trails as shown below.

### **What are Rails-With-Trails?**

Rails-With-Trails is a program managed by the US Department of Transportation. The term "rail-with-trail" describes a shared-use path or trail open and developed for public use that is located on or adjacent to the rights-of-way of an active railroad or rail transit corridor.

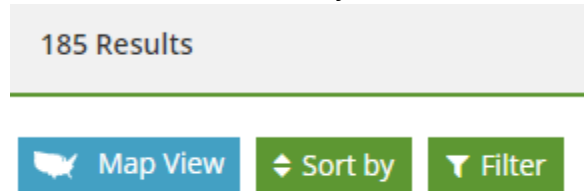
### **How to Search for Rail-Trail segments**

Use the web site, or the apps available for Apple and Android. This document shows the web site search process using <https://www.trailink.com/>.

From the home page, enter your search criteria



This will return a map page with all the trails in the database showing, and a list of the trails on the left-hand side. Searching for Colorado returns 185 trails. These include Canals, Open Space/Greenway that is not RTT, and Rail-Trails. You must limit the results to just Rail-Trails, so select Filter,



then check Rail-Trail under Type and click on Apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking	<b>Type</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Type
<b>Length</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Canal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any Length	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenway/Non-RT
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 Miles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rail-Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 Miles	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 Miles	
<input type="checkbox"/> 20+ Miles	
<input type="button" value="Apply"/>	

When we choose Rail-Trail for Colorado, the number of trails drops from 185 to 42. When you reference the Rails-With-Trails document, it increases to 55 with possible duplicates.

If you find the trail you are looking for, update your AVA event listing to include the Rails-To-Trails Special Program so everyone can search and find it easily.



# Rails-To-Trails Special Program Trailmaster Guidelines



**2022**

◀ LIST ▶

Most special programs have an ending date in this list is when a sanction should not be applied to a special program. This is handled automatically.

## Helena, MT - Capital Walk

[Update special programs](#)

Select all of the special programs that apply to this event.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airports - Celebrating American Flight<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2023                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Special National Officer Book (S.N.O.)<br>No end date                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border Crossings<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2024   | <input type="checkbox"/> The Appalachian Trail<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2029                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carousels Across America<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2022                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Halls / City Halls<br>Starts: Jan 1st, 2022                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centurion Achievement Challenge<br>No end date (All events)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk Like An Olympian<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2022                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2024 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking the United States - Capitals<br>No end date           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Little Free Libraries<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2022                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking the United States - States<br>No end date (All walks) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayflower - 400th Anniversary Walk<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2023            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking the USA, A - Z<br>No end date (All walks)             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rails-To-Trails<br>Starts: Jan 1st, 2022                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking with America's Veterans<br>Ending: Dec 31st, 2024     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rockin' Around the Clock  |   |

As a reminder, for your participants to become part of the Rails-To-Trails Special Program, send a check for \$12 made out to the Colorado Springs Walking Club to 3524 N Cascade Ave #58; Colorado Springs, CO 80909 and the Special Program booklet will be mailed back to you.

### References:

Rails-to-trails Conservancy

<https://railstotrails.org>

RTC Trail Link

<https://traillink.com>

US Department of Transportation

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/rwt2021/#toc30791372](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/rwt2021/#toc30791372)

American Volkssport Association

AVA: America's Walking Club

<https://ava.org>