



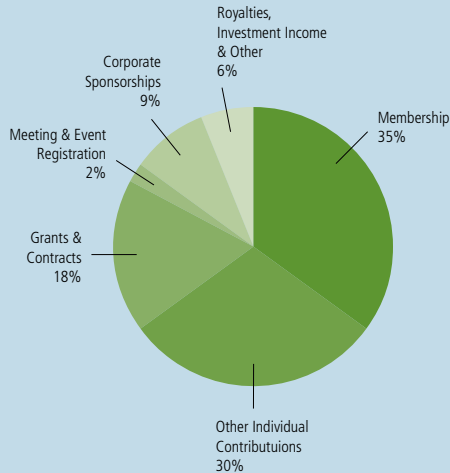
rails-to-trails
conservancy

2006 Annual Report *inspiring movement*



Summary of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

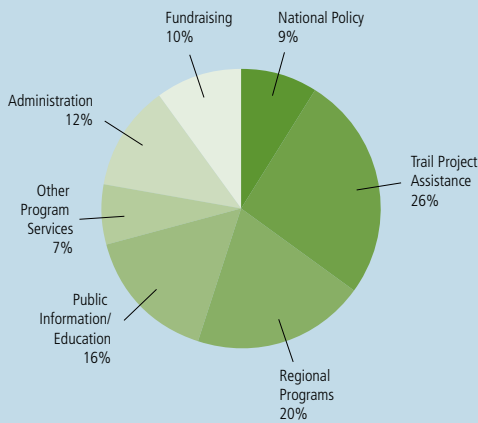
For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.



REVENUE

PERCENTAGES

Membership	\$ 2,359,950	35%
Other Individual Contributions	2,012,749	30%
Grants & Contracts	1,236,075	18%
Meeting & Event Registration	108,206	2%
Corporate Sponsorships	645,892	9%
Royalties, Investment Income & Other	402,411	6%
Total Revenue	\$ 6,765,283	100%



EXPENSES


Program		
National Policy	\$ 607,793	9%
Trail Project Assistance	1,640,010	26%
Regional Programs	1,271,371	20%
Public Information/Education	1,015,981	16%
Other Program Services	448,637	7%
Administration	778,955	12%
Fundraising	636,933	10%
Total Expenses	\$ 6,399,680	100%

Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$ 365,603
Investment Income (See note 1)	\$ 55,391
Total Changes in Net Assets	\$ 420,994
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,879,815
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 2,300,809

NOTE 1: Investment Income represents realized and unrealized gains and losses on investment of restricted assets. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a nonprofit charitable organization as qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

photos

cover Keystone Trail, Neb. © Jennifer Kaleba
p3 Burke-Gilman Trail, Seattle, Wash. © Bryce Hall
p5 (from the top)
 York County Heritage Trail, Pa. © Neil Meyerhoff
 Hudson River Greenway, N.Y. © Boyd Loving
 Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail, Utah. © Jennifer Kaleba
 Kokosing Gap Trail, Ohio. © Phil Samuell
 Shining Sea Bikeway, Mass. © Craig Della Penna

A photograph showing three people walking away from the camera on a paved trail. The person on the left is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt with 'FINISHER 2003 PORTLAND MARATHON' printed on the back and dark shorts. The person in the middle is wearing a blue and black long-sleeved shirt and black leggings. The person on the right is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and black leggings. The trail is surrounded by lush green trees and grass, suggesting a park or natural setting.

The mission of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is to create a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people.

For more than 20 years, **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** has been the leader of the rail-trail movement. In 2006—its 20th anniversary year—Rails-to-Trails Conservancy launched an initiative that will take both the organization and the future of rail-trails in an inspired new direction.

The concept is simple: more walking and biking + less driving = healthier people + a healthier planet. And at the core of this energy equation are rail-trails.

Rail-trails already link history, land preservation, recreation, communities and more. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy knows that promoting and supporting rail-trails as connections to larger transportation systems will simultaneously and positively impact global climate change and the national obesity crisis.

One physical step at a time; one transportation choice at a time—Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is helping build healthier places for healthier people.

2006 in Review

building the movement. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is helping build healthier places for healthier people through its work on key initiatives and programs including advocating for active transportation (trails, biking and walking in everyday-life), protecting trail-friendly federal legislation, and creating trail and transportation partnerships.

trail policy

In July, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy convened representatives from partner organizations around the country to develop a plan for increased federal funding for non-motorized transportation through the anticipated reauthorization of the federal transportation legislation in 2010. These groups will become frontline advocates for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation, seeking federal funds to make trails, walking and biking mainstream transportation options in communities across the country.

The catalyst for this work was the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP), for which Rails-to-Trails Conservancy was the lead advocate. This innovative program provides \$100 million of federal money to four pilot communities to increase biking and walking in everyday transportation.

In 2006 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy received funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to conduct a new communications program for these communities to share best practices and strategies, facilitate tracking of progress, and broadcast their accomplishments to other communities and decision makers. FHWA also renewed its support for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC). NTEC's work included producing a detailed analysis of spending trends for transportation enhancements and an updated version of *Enhancing America's Communities*, highlighting the best transportation enhancements projects from around the country.

trail protection

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy testified in defense of the 1983 Rails to Trails Act at a Congressional hearing in July. At issue was the integrity of the railbanking law authorizing the federal government to preserve unused railroad corridor through use as trails. The bill could also open the rail-trail program to amendments that would undercut the program. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy identified a solution that would enable Congress to ensure that the landowners' appeal would be carefully considered by the courts, while protecting the railbanking statute from unnecessary changes. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy issued an alert to Missouri members asking them to contact their member of Congress in support of the organization's position.

trail building

Promoting the field work of the national, and regional and state offices, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy established a “Portfolio of Projects” highlighting 25 in-progress or recently completed projects for which it has provided significant in-depth technical assistance and planning services. Information about many of these projects is available online. An example of such work is the Milwaukee Road corridor in Idaho and Montana. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has facilitated work on each end of the Route of the Hiawatha including opening 30 new miles, moving one step closer to the goal of connecting the trail to the neighboring 80-mile John Wayne Pioneer Trail.

trail partnerships

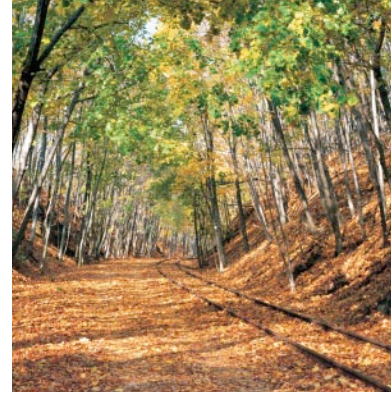
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy staff members took on leadership roles with several key partners like the National Transportation Enhancements Coalition, American Trails, and America Bikes. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy also grew partnerships with several corporations in 2006, solidifying a relationship with Kaiser Permanente and their “Healthy Eating/Active Living” project. Community outreach to increase awareness and use of the Metropolitan Branch, a rail-with-trail running from Washington, D.C., to Silver Spring, Md., was the first step in this multi-year program. A regranting program was established with Coca-Cola North America to make state-to-state rail-trail connections possible for Alabama and Georgia, Connecticut and Massachusetts, and Indiana and Ohio. Smaller community-building gifts were awarded to 14 trail and trail management groups, and the Dasani Blue Bikes program—begun in partnership with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 2005—continued to place free bikes and bike facilities in five communities.

trail awareness

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy produced two large-scale bicycle rides, hosted by our regional offices. The Pennsylvania Greenway Sojourn and Midwest Express promoted rail-trails and future rail-trail connections to the more than 450 riders from across the country who participated in the events.

During the course of the year, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy collected GPS information for more than 100 rail-trails in 12 states within the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions for its new series of guidebooks. *Rail-Trails: Southeast* was ready for print by the end of 2006. This work is also driving an organization-wide mapping initiative that will collect trail coordinates and render them online for free public use in 2008.

To update the look and feel of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the organization underwent a major rebranding effort including redesigning its logo, color palette, Web site, magazine and other promotional materials. A four-minute organizational video was also produced. Highlighting some of the country’s greatest rail-trails and telling the rail-trail story through trail-user interviews, this video documents Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s rich history while framing its inspiring future.



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