

INVEST IN MAINE TRAILS STATEWIDE

LD 1156 will establish a Maine Trails Bond for outdoor recreation and active transportation.

Maine has the potential to be a top-tier state in the nation with multi-use trails that support activities that contribute to our economy, environment, and quality of life.

- In every corner of the state, Maine trails are a critical resource for connecting Maine people and visitors with the natural world and for reaching destinations to work and play.



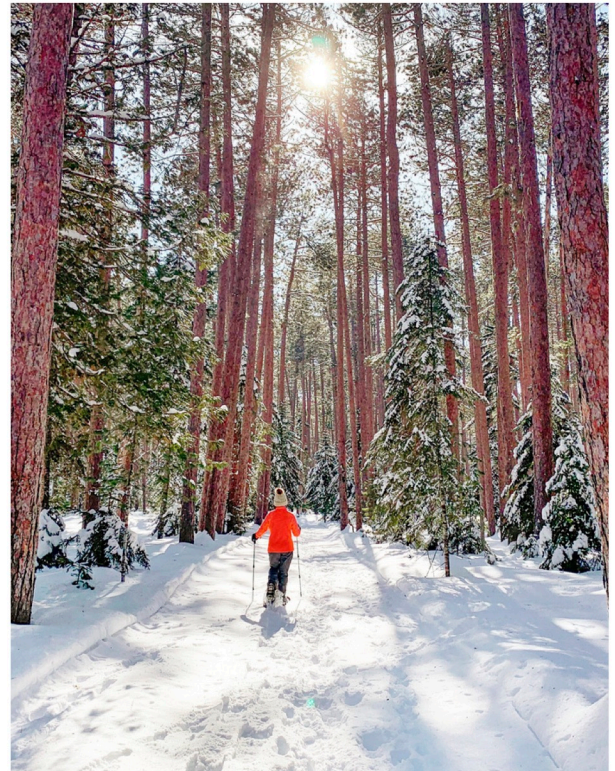
- During the pandemic, more people than ever discovered Maine trails for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, skiing, commuting, and other activities.
- Trails are an essential component of Maine's \$3 billion outdoor recreation economy, which supports 41,000 jobs. Snowmobiling alone generates \$460 million in direct spending in Maine and supports 2,200 jobs. Annual direct and indirect spending from snowmobiling exceeds \$600 million.
- According to the National Association of Realtors, nearby trails and greenways raise property values by an average of 3-5% -- and sometimes upwards of 15%.

Maine has a huge need for investment in trail design, construction, and maintenance.

- Although Maine has many exceptional and diverse trails, trail groups and communities have identified a large backlog of maintenance projects that need attention.
- Funding also is needed to build trails that are accessible to individuals across the full range of abilities.
- New trails could support active transportation, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Existing state, federal, and private funding is insufficient to make Maine a nationally recognized destination for trails.

A Maine Trails Bond will strengthen Maine's economy and help protect our environment.

- A \$30 million Maine Trails Bond would provide grants to nonprofits, municipalities, and other divisions of government statewide to support non-motorized, motorized, and multi-use trails.
- Funding would be distributed over a 4-year period, and applicants would be required to demonstrate at least 20% in matching contributions.
- Funding would be managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), which has experience managing the federal Recreation Trails Program.
- BPL would coordinate with the Department of Transportation for any grant applications that help advance the Maine State Active Transportation Plan.



Support LD 1156. Invest in Maine trails to strengthen our communities, economy, and quality of life.

For more information, please contact
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