

# Top 10 Steps to Trail Building...

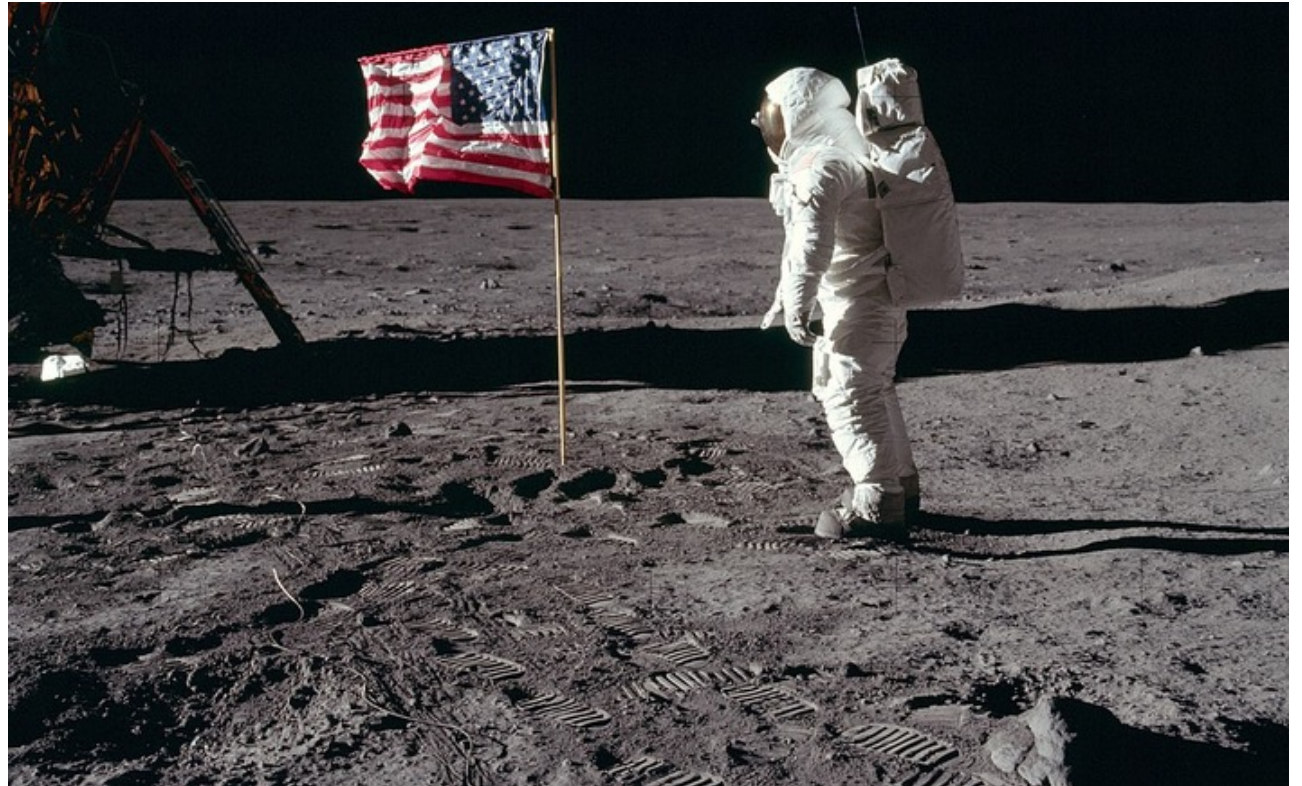




# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development\*

#1

Find a location  
that makes  
sense... on  
public land.



All steps assuming there is some degree of community need, desire & support.

# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#2**

Contact the land manager first –  
and expect future  
ongoing  
collaboration.





# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#3**

Decide on  
permitted trail  
user type (hiking,  
biking, equestrian,  
multi-use, etc.)





# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#4**

Decide on the type of trail surface (natural, gravel and/or screenings, asphalt, concrete).





# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#5**

Locate (and mark/flag) preliminary trail layout.



**#6**

Get land manager approval to proceed.

# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#7**

Develop a detailed construction budget with current quotes – details count!



# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#8**

## Seek funding/resources/partnerships

- \* Community support is essential for any local govt. funding.
- \* Start researching grant opportunities – note that funders often have different deadlines/requirements – a spreadsheet and timeline can be helpful.
- \* Don't forget about those non-cash resources – in-kind donations, labor, etc.
- \* Think about how the trail can involve/recognize/honor different people and organizations.



# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#9**

Find volunteers who will help build and maintain the trail.





# Top Ten Steps to Success in Trail Development

**#10**



**Build the Trail!**







# Preliminary Trail Development Steps



- Confirm Demand
- Find a location
- Get land/park manager approval
- Decide on the type of trail surface
- Decide on the type of trail users
- Scout the new trail site
- Develop an initial trail layout (Google Earth is invaluable)
- Flag the proposed trail corridor
- Get land/park manager approval of the proposed trail
- Develop a budget
- Request funding
- Begin construction

30-min FB video on Trail Building w/Mike Goodwin, Elizabeth Burger, Marci Penner  
<https://www.facebook.com/marcipenner/videos/10223466593709857/>





# Mike's Top 5 Tips for Trail Success





Involve the land manager early in the process and regularly throughout.



If you haven't built a trail previously, contact someone who has and learn from their experience.



Don't be bashful asking for funding, volunteer work, donation of materials or services.



BE FLEXIBLE – many projects begin with a basic idea but may require changes due to unknown issues discovered later.



Be PATIENT – many trail projects  
take over a year to complete.





# Trail in a Box...

## “Just add Volunteers!”



Trailer outfitted with everything needed to build/maintain a natural surface trail  
BONUS: comes with technical assistance!



Under Mike's leadership, the fleet has grown to **seven** "trail trailers" roving the state, helping communities of all sizes build natural surface trails.



Jackson Park (Atchison)  
Little Jerusalem Badlands  
Redbud (Wichita, Andover, Augusta)  
Prairie Sunset (Wichita, Goddard, Garden Plain)  
Lehigh Portland (Iola)  
Horsethief Reservoir (Jetmore)  
Deer Creek (Pomona Lake)  
Alcove Spring (Marysville)  
Douglas County Lake (Baldwin)  
Manhattan Zoo Trail  
Manhattan River Trail  
Ft Riley & Ft Leavenworth  
Fancy Creek (Tuttle Creek)  
Home Works USA (Lawrence)  
Elmwood Park (Norton)

## Just a few Trail in a Box Projects across Kansas

Lime Creek (Herrington)  
South Mound (Fredonia)  
Prairie Park (Lawrence)  
Columbus Project (Columbus)  
Connect Church (Lawrence)  
Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty (Medicine Lodge)  
Arkalon Park Trails (Liberal)  
Benton Two Angels Trail (Benton)  
Sylvan Grove High School (Sylvan Grove)

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