



## Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties  
March 24, 2022

### **The C&O Canal Towpath and Great Allegheny Passage are Nominated for Best Recreational Trails in North America**

**CUMBERLAND, MD** – The C&O Canal Towpath and Great Allegheny Passage are each nominated as one of the top best recreational trails in North America by USA Today's 10Best.

USA Today 10Best editors worked with a panel of travel experts to nominate the country's best recreational trails. "Over the course of the last two years, many people have looked for more ways to get active in the great outdoors. Thanks to an ever-growing network of recreational trails across the country, staying active is easier than ever," the website states.

The C&O Canal Towpath runs 184.5 miles from Georgetown in the nation's capital to Cumberland, MD, along the historic C&O Canal, once used by canal mules to tow boats along the waterway. The Great Allegheny Passage is a 150-mile rail-trail system from Cumberland, MD, to Pittsburgh, PA. It was the first trail to earn a spot in the National Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

Alligany County is home to approximately 70 miles of these two trail systems, which merge in Cumberland to create a 330-mile continuous, car-free trail from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC.

**You can vote for your favorite trail at [www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-recreational-trail-2022](http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-recreational-trail-2022), once per day until polls close on Monday, April 11, at noon ET. The top 10 trails will be announced on April 22.**

The other nominated trails are Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail, Austin, Texas; Blue Springs Headspring Trail, Orange City, Florida; Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston, Texas; Chuck Huckleberry Loop, Tucson, Arizona; Colorado Riverfront Trail, Palisade, Grand Junction, and Fruita, Colorado; George S. Mickelson Trail, Black Hills, South Dakota; Gore Valley Trail, Vail, Colorado; High Line Canal Trail, Denver, Colorado; Jedediah Smith Memorial Trail, Sacramento, California; Katy Trail, Missouri; Ke Ala Hele Makalae, Kauai, Hawaii; Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail System, Greenville County, South Carolina; Rio Grande Trail, Colorado; Silver Comet Trail, Georgia and Alabama; Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, Idaho; Virginia Creeper Trail, Virginia and North Carolina; and Wissahickon Trail, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

## **Rural Maryland Council Senator George Edwards Presented With Rural Champion Award**

Rural Maryland Council recently held its annual meeting and 2021 Rural Impact Award ceremony in Annapolis, MD. Highlights from the meeting included an overview of upcoming events and activities for 2022 and honoring advocates for rural Maryland communities.

During the 2021 Rural Impact Award Ceremony, the **Rural Champion Award** was received by Senator George Edwards and Senator Guy Guzzone for their outstanding leadership and public service in advocating for policy solutions to greatly benefit rural communities.



*Photo: John Hartline (Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland) and Charlotte Davis (RMC Executive Director) presenting Senator George Edwards the Rural Champion Award at the RMC annual meeting on December 1, 2021. Photo Credit: Edwin Remsburg*



### **Women's Business Summit March 29 - 30, 2022**

In celebration of Women's History Month, join the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership and the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center for the virtual Women's Business Summit on March 29-30, 2022. The free event will include power-packed panels, inspirational fireside chats, and 'Ask an Expert' workshops to help you build, scale, and grow your business. Panels and discussion topics include:

- Innovation and Investment
- Building an Equitable Recovery Framework for Women Entrepreneurs
- From Essential Worker to Essential Entrepreneur: CARE Economy Entrepreneurship Opportunities

- The \$100B Marketplace: Contracting Opportunities for Women-led Firms
- Exporting & E-Commerce
- The Changing Landscape for Entertainment and Hospitality Industries

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

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