

**Kathy DeCoster****Advocacy and Policy Director, Partnership for the National Trails System**

Kathy DeCoster serves as consultant to the Partnership for the National Trails System as its Advocacy and Policy Director. In that role, Kathy helps lead Hike the Hill meetings, keep the Partnership's Board of Directors and Trail Leaders Council apprised of relevant federal agency and congressional policies and issues, works with the Advocacy and Policy subcommittee on key issues, and maintains the Partnership's important agency and congressional relationships.

Kathy retired from The Trust for Public Land (TPL) in June 2019 after 25 years, including the last 10 as Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs, where she directed TPL's federal program and represented the organization with the Administration, Congress, NGOs and other partner organizations. Prior to joining TPL, Kathy served on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant on environmental issues for both Sen. William S. Cohen (ME) from 1983 to 1994 and Rep. David F. Emery (ME-1) from 1980 to 1983.

Kathy received an M.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia and graduated from Kenyon College (Ohio) cum laude with Honors in History. She lives in Washington, D.C. A former member of the Partnership's Board of Directors, Kathy is committed to the success of our scenic and historic trails.