



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 23, 2018

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## **Rutherford County Government Receives \$30,000 Grant for Thermal Belt Rail-Trail Amenities**

*Project is one of ten in the country to receive Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2018 Doppelt Fund grants*

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) today announced the recipients of its 2018 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund grants, with an emphasis on strategic investments that support significant regional and community trail development goals. The Thermal Belt Rail Trail was one of ten projects selected from a field of 182 applications nationwide.

- City of Dayton (Ohio), receiving \$15,000, which will serve as a federal funding match for the acquisition of a former rail corridor that will eventually be home to a new trail, The Flight Line.
- Dallas County Conservation Board (Iowa), receiving \$15,000 for the acquisition of six parcels of land required to extend the iconic High Trestle Trail to the Raccoon River Valley Trail north of Des Moines.
- Friends of Clare County Parks & Recreation (Mich.), receiving \$5,000 to increase support for an off-road alignment of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail through Clare.
- Idaho Panhandle National Forests, U.S. Forest Service, receiving \$20,000 to resurface and reshape the slope of the Route of the Hiawatha through the St. Paul Pass Tunnel.
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition (Calif.), receiving \$5,000 to promote efforts to convert the closed Alto rail tunnel into a crucial trail link through Marin County.
- Rock Island Rail Corridor Authority (Mo.), receiving \$25,000 for the Greenwood Connector, which will help to build the final 8-mile trail segment to complete a statewide trail connecting St. Louis to Kansas City via the Katy and Rock Island Trails.
- Western New York Land Conservancy, Inc., receiving \$10,000 to conduct a design competition to convert a former rail line in Buffalo into a trail and linear park.
- New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, receiving \$7,500 to build support for the Ice & Iron Greenway, a future rail-trail through densely populated and underserved communities in North Jersey.
- Rutherford County Government (N.C.), receiving \$30,000 for trail enhancements that will improve and encourage trail use, including the development of crosswalks and fencing; installation of educational kiosks and signs; and construction of wildlife viewing stations along an extension of the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail.

*County Commissioners*

**Bryan A. King**, *Chairman*  
**Alan Toney**, *Vice Chairman*

**Eddie Holland**  
**Greg Lovelace**  
**Michael Benfield**

**Steven W. Garrison**, *County Manager*  
**Hazel S. Haynes**, *Clerk to the Board*  
**Richard Williams**, *County Attorney*

- Southwest Renewal Foundation of High Point, Inc. (N.C.), receiving \$10,000 to increase capacity for the future Southwest High Point Greenway, including outreach expenses and matching funds for additional grants.

RTC received nearly \$5.5 million in application requests for the 2018 grant cycle, demonstrating the national reality of unmet trail funding needs. The 2018 Doppelt Fund grantees mark the largest pool of RTC-funded projects to date, with more than \$140,000 invested in 10 projects nationwide. The fund was bolstered by an additional \$40,000 legacy gift from North Carolina Rail-Trails, Inc. and a \$20,000 gift from an anonymous donor. Established in 2015, The Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund is a way to move forward critical projects that enhance health and transportation connectivity in their regions. A listing of all Doppelt Fund grant recipients can be found on [RTC's website](#).

*Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is the nation's largest trails organization—with a grassroots community more than 1 million strong—dedicated to connecting people and communities by creating a nationwide network of public trails, many from former rail lines. Connect with RTC at [railstotrails.org](http://railstotrails.org) and @railstotrails on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).*

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