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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2017 Doppelt Fund Grants Fill Financial Gaps Needed for Trails

Grant awards fulfill growing need for trail maintenance and development nationwide

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) announced the recipients of its 2017 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund grants, a fund to support small, regional projects that are vital to trail systems but often fall through the cracks of traditional funding streams. In total, RTC received \$5.9 million in application requests for the 2017 grant cycle, a number that has increased by nearly \$1 million in the past year, demonstrating the growing demand for trail funding in communities nationwide.

“Every week, I hear from dozens of organizations that manage trails—all with common challenges when it comes to funding small projects that address specific maintenance or trail development needs,” said Eli Griffen, RTC’s manager of trail development resources and the manager of the Doppelt Fund grant program. “This year’s grants offer critical investment in projects that will close important gaps in trail systems, measure the economic impact of trails and support specific maintenance needs.”

The 2017 Doppelt Fund grants were awarded in support of six projects, totaling \$102,500. Recipients include:

- **The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department (Colo.)**, receiving **\$35,000** to complete Phase 1 of the Legacy Loop, a comprehensive multi-use trail project that will improve connectivity and accessibility for over 120,000 families living within two miles of the project in Colorado Springs.
- **Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust (Ore.)**, receiving **\$30,000** to support analysis of the social-economic benefits associated with the 86-mile Salmonberry Trail.
- **Wyoming Pathways (Idaho, Mont., Wyo.)**, receiving **\$20,000** to support the opening of the Greater Yellowstone Trail, a 180-mile pathway and rail-trail route that connects Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to West Yellowstone, Montana, via small towns in eastern Idaho.
- **National Road Heritage Corridor (Pa.)**, receiving **\$7,500** for the construction of the Marion segment of the Sheepskin Trail, which will close an existing gap in the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition’s Parkersburg-to-Pittsburgh corridor.

- **Detroit Greenways Coalition (Mich.)**, receiving **\$5,000** to support the Inner Circle Greenway in Highland Park, the largest urban trail project in the state of Michigan.
- **Cowboy Trail West, Inc. (Neb.)**, receiving **\$5,000** to support a 15-mile expansion of the Cowboy Trail from Gordon, Nebraska, to Rushville, Nebraska.

“We are lucky to have the capacity to invest in a handful of these projects through the Doppelt Fund, but the growing need far exceeds the funding available. These projects are vital to the health of local and regional trail systems,” said Jeff Doppelt, a philanthropist from Great Neck, New York.

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, a nonprofit organization with more than 160,000 members and supporters, is the nation’s largest trails organization dedicated to connecting people and communities by creating a nationwide network of public trails, many from former rail lines. RTC has field offices in Florida, Ohio, California and Pennsylvania. Connect with RTC at railstotrails.org and @railstotrails on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).