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2015 CGT Greenways Awards

This region is known far and wide for our outdoor recreation and trail systems. The multi-use trail, most call it the bike trail, is actually several trails linked into a regional system and open to biking, hiking, horseback riding and all two legged and four legged powered movement. There are also individual trails as well as the parks and waterways attracting visitors and making this a great place to live. “The trails are free to use but certainly are not free or easy to build, operate and maintain,” said Debra Frawley, Greenways Coordinator.

The Council on Greenways & Trails (CGT) would like to recognize those in the region that are realizing the value of our natural and outdoor recreational resources and partnering to protect and/or develop those resources for the benefit of our citizens and visitors and increase the economic impact that they bring. “Many of these are volunteers that devote time, talent and resources because they love it so much. The impact they are creating for this region is tremendous.”

This year the Council on Greenways & Trails will be presenting three awards. Nominations will be accepted through May 25. Contact Debra Frawley or visit www.nwpagreenways.org for a nomination form.

The James E. Holden Greenways Volunteer of the Year Award is for having provided significant uncompensated hours and expertise. It is named in honor of Jim Holden, well known trail champion in the region.

The Thomas Allen Greenways Partner of the Year is for having donated support, resources, items, and/or expertise. This year, this award will be re-named in honor of Tom Allen former Director of the Franklin Industrial and Commercial Development Authority and a tremendous supporter of the CGT efforts.

The Greenways Neighbor of the Year is for involvement and assistance by a property owner adjacent to a greenway or trail segment.

Sponsorships are invited for these annual awards. Each sponsorship of a specific award (suggested at \$250) will include the cost of a tree planted at a project site, a custom memorial plaque produced by Franklin Bronze Plaques, stone paver, and related site preparation. Businesses, individuals, clubs or others are encouraged to be a sponsor.

According to the 2013 Trail User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis, the multi-use trail system alone attracts over 158,000 people per year and has a direct economic impact of \$6.9 million to our local businesses. Help us to thank and honor those individuals, groups and municipalities that create and maintain these assets in our backyard.

Contact Debra Frawley, Greenways Coordinator for details at dfrawley@oilregion.org or 814-677-3152 Ext. 116.