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From: Michael Sprague
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Hello Trails Council Members,

I hope you all are doing well. I'm excited to get another Trail News email out to you all. There is a lot. I hope to get these out more often and keep the size down. I know there is much more going on. I will have to get to those in a future Trail News email. If you come across something you would like featured in a Trail News email, please send me a link so I may put it in the next edition. I hope you all enjoy looking through these.

The upcoming **Winter Quarterly Arkansas Trails Council Meeting** to take place at **10:00 am** in **Hot Springs** at the on **Saturday, January 20**. I will email details on the facility soon.

Arkansas Trail News:

The Recreational Trails (RTP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants have been awarded by Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT). Attached are the Information Release from ArDOT and the list of awarded projects for TAP (1st page) and RTP (2nd page). Below are lists of the **awardees**.

- RTP Awardees:
 - Alma – Little Frog Bayou Walking Trail: Phase one of the start of a urban trail along Little Frog Bayou
 - Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism – Pinnacle Mountain State Park Shared-Use Path: construction of a trail that will connect the Arkansas Arboretum and the West Summit Day-Use areas of Pinnacle Mountain State Park with a paved trail that will go alongside the Little Maumelle River
 - Benton – Southwest Trail Loop: Construction of a trail will connect Riverside Park to the proposed Southwest Trail Greenway corridor
 - Booneville – Marcelle-Veterans Parks Connecting Trails: construction of an urban trail that will connect parks in Booneville
 - Crittenden County – Delta Regional River Park Trail: construction of a trail from the Harahan Bridge to the Mississippi River
 - Little Rock's Ottenheimer Park: Construction of walkways that particularly focus on accessibility for the whole park and replace the park's current walkways
 - <http://www.thv11.com/news/community/grant-money-to-help-park-cater-to-people-with-disabilities/491291403>
 - Lonoke – Lonoke Trail: improving and extending the trail in downtown Lonoke along the abandoned rail corridor
 - Lowell – Kathleen Johnson Memorial Park Trailhead Connector Trail to the Razorback Greenway: construction of a trail that will connect a new park to the Razorback Greenway
 - Texarkana – Parks Trail Connections: construction of urban trails that will extend from a current trail system
 - Texarkana – Seibert Street Trail: construction of a trail extension that will extend part of an urban trail network
 - The Nature Conservancy – Bluffton Preserve Multi-Use Trail System, Phase 1: construction of 9 miles of mountain bike trails, as part of phase 1, along the Archey Fork of the Little Red River, upstream from Clinton
 - United States Forest Service – Moccasin Gap Vault Toilet: installation of an additional restroom at the trailhead

- United States Forest Service – Richland Creek Vault Toilet: installation of a new restroom to replace the existing one
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Coleman Creek Greenway: construct an on-campus trail extension of the Coleman Creek Greenway system
- Trail-Related TAP Awardees:
 - Fayetteville – Weddington (Hwy. 16) and I-49 Shared-Use Paved Trail: a shared-use trail over a new bridge spanning I-49
 - Jonesboro – Downtown to A-State connection:
 - <http://katv.com/news/local/grant-to-fund-walkingbiking-trail-between-downtown-and-a-state>
 - <http://www.kait8.com/story/36647192/grant-to-fund-walkingbiking-trail-between-downtown-and-a-state>
 - North Little Rock – Recycle Bikes for Kids: Recycle Bikes for Kids is a program that takes in and gives out used bikes for people (kids and adults)
 - Prairie Grove – Muddy Fork Park Walking Trail: a neighborhood walking trail
 - Saline County – Old River Bridge: to go towards the refurbishing of the Saline Crossing Bridge, which will be part of the Southwest Trail Greenway
- General write-up on the two grant program awards in Northwest Arkansas:
 - <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/nov/01/northwest-arkansas-cities-get-state-mon/?f=news-arkansas>

About **16 miles of mountain bike trails** are **to be built** on City of **Hot Springs** land just north of town. The project is being headed by Visit Hot Springs and the city. Part of the \$1.3 million trail will be funded by a \$648,421 grant from the Walton Family Foundation. The project is the first phase to build 44 miles of trails in the forested mountains and lakes area, a short ride from downtown Hot Springs, potentially making Hot Springs a mountain bike destination of national significance.

- <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2017/oct/26/foundation-gives-grant-to-start-trail-2-1/>
- <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2017/oct/25/walton-foundation-fund-part-biking-trail/>
- <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2017/oct/31/ad-panel-oks-mountain-bike-trail-system/>
- <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2017/nov/01/terrain-blessing-curse-in-northwoods-ar/>

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) has designated **Fourche Creek** in Little Rock as **Arkansas’ first Urban Water Trail**. A **new boat ramp** accessing the creek at **Benny Craig Park** was also recently built with help from AGFC.

- <https://www.arkansas.com/blog/post/paddling-the-fourche-creek-urban-water-trail/>
- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/may/09/south-lr-creek-hailed-as-place-for-cano/>
- <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/new-boat-ramp-float-tours-unveiled-in-little-rock/438894975>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ARGameandFish/posts/10155299068638234:0>

Article in the Huffington Post about **canoeing with Congressman French Hill** on **Little Rock’s Fourche Creek**:

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-time-i-went-canoeing-with-a-republican-congressman_us_59b2d812e4b0d0c16bb52c55

Also about Fourche Creek, about a third of the way down, this article highlights volunteers that picked up **3,150 pounds of trash last month** from the waterway:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/nov/13/group-plans-project-on-small-epa-grant-/?f=news-arkansas>

Here is a **video** that highlights **Fourche Creek** and, later in the clip (8:40) highlights **Arkansas water trails**:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEIK705LHQ8>

Arkansas Game and Fish also dedicated **Rabbit Tail Water Trail**, a new water trail on **Lake Ouachita**:

- <https://www.agfc.com/en/news/2017/08/30/agfc-dedicates-new-water-trail-at-lake-ouachita-sept-8/>

Website for the new Rabbit Tail Water Trail:

- <https://www.agfc.com/en/explore-outdoors/wildlife-viewing/water-trails/rabbit-tail-water-trail/>

Speaking of water trails, **AGFC** has a **new Water Trail Webpage**:

- <https://www.agfc.com/en/explore-outdoors/wildlife-viewing/water-trails/>

Arkansas Tech University and the City of **Russellville** officially **open a trail**, connecting campus and the aquatics center, today.

- <http://www.arkansastechnews.com/community/ribbon-cutting-for-tech-connect-trail-tuesday/>

The **Razorback Greenway** is being extended to **Bella Vista**:

- <http://5news.com/2017/11/02/razorback-greenway-expands-to-bella-vista/>

Fayetteville is constructing a **trail to Mount Kessler**. These two articles about the project are from August:

- <https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2017/08/03/cato-springs-trail-construction-continues-in-south-fayetteville/>
- <https://www.fayettevilleflyer.com/2017/08/31/crews-install-bridge-and-tunnel-on-cato-springs-trail/>

A **new trailhead facility** is being constructed at **Arkansas City** for the **Delta Heritage Trail**:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/aug/07/site-to-celebrate-delta-s-railroad-hist-1/>

Both **Little Rock** and the **coalition of Garland, Pulaski and Saline counties** received **Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grants** to help with the Southwest Trail—a rail-trail project that would connect Little Rock and Hot Springs.

Little Rock's FLAP Grant—construction of phase one to connect the Arkansas River Trail with Little Rock Central High National Historic Site:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/jun/17/lr-gets-grant-to-help-build-ramp-to-bri/>
 - <https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2017/06/16/lr-gets-16-million-for-river-trail-ramp-and-fix>
- Garland, Pulaski and Saline Counties' Grant—design of the trail from Little Rock Central National Historic Site to Hot Springs National Park:
- <https://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/the-biking-news/Content?oid=6697743>
 - <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/trail-from-little-rock-to-hot-springs-gets-26-million-grant-to-help-cover-design-costs/484664825>

Fort Smith hopes to connect a **34-mile trail system**:

- <http://5news.com/2017/11/13/progress-made-on-fort-smith-trails/>

Alma to design a **10-mile, trail system** open to mountain bikes at **Lake Alma**:

- <http://www.pressargus.com/news/20171109/plan-for-alma-trail-system-gets-city-council-support>
- <http://www.pressargus.com/news/20171108/alma-council-supports-trails-proposal>

Conway launches **Arkansas' first bike share** program:

- <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2017/may/28/conway-launches-first-bike-share-program/?f=rivervalley>
- <http://thecabin.net/news/local/2017-05-22/city-announces-first-bike-sharing-program-state>

Arkansas State University starts a bike share program:

- http://www.astateherald.com/news/bike-sharing-program-comes-to-arkansas-state-university/article_caacf49c-b049-11e7-b76c-7b2ef5fc86b4.html
- <http://www.kait8.com/story/36541468/a-state-announces-bike-share-program>

Little Rock is getting **Bicycle Share** in the spring:

- <https://www.littlerock.gov/for-residents/bikeped-little-rock/bike-share/>
- <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/north-little-rock-little-rock-teaming-up-to-launch-bike-share-program/444690854>

Mountain Valley Spring Water has partnered with **Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT)**

- <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/mountain-valley-spring-water-partners-with-friends-of-the-ouachita-trail-300536171.html>

Efforts are being made to create a **Rail Trail** from **Paris to Fort Smith**:

- <http://www.swtimes.com/opinion/20170602/community-matters-rails-to-trails-project-holds-promise>

One year since the **Harahan Bridge bicycle-pedestrian trail** has been opened and connections are still being made.

- Here is an article about the area around the Big River Crossing (the trail across the Harahan Bridge) and the links and developments being made because of it:
 - <https://www.memphisdailynews.com/news/2017/oct/21/the-ties-that-bind/>
- Observation on a bike ride across the Harahan Bridge:
 - <https://www.memphisdailynews.com/news/2017/oct/21/big-river-crossing-observations-on-two-wheels-and-sometimes-two-feet/>
- A quarter million people walked out on the Harahan Bridge in its first year:
 - <http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/news/2017/10/18/big-river-crossing-drew-nearly-250-000-first-year-promoters-say/775253001/>

Central Arkansas Water is conducting a study to determine if **mountain biking** will be allowed on property adjoining **Lake Maumelle**:

- <http://www.carkw.com/2017/07/central-arkansas-water-to-study-mountain-biking-in-lake-maumelle-watershed/>
- <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/central-arkansas-water-to-consider-allowing-biking-around-lake-maumelle/455618321>
- <https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2017/07/14/central-arkansas-water-to-study-mountain-biking-around-its-lake>

Here is an article about a **Buffalo River paddling trip** for **wounded veterans** and the group **Team River Runner** that organizes these:

- <https://www.canoekayak.com/travel/paddling-arkansas-buffalo-river-wounded-veterans/#Dt7c4CvFEQDEi00t.97>

A woman sets the **fastest known time (FKT)** for the **Ozark Highlands Trail** – not quite 2 ½ days:

- <https://sgbonline.com/ashley-nordell-smashes-fastest-known-time-on-ozark-highlands-trail/>

Little Rock has become home to the production of **top of the line carbon fiber bicycle frames**. Here is an article about **HIA Velo/Allied Cycle Works**:

- <http://bicycletimesmag.com/hia-velo-back-to-work/>
- <https://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/hia-velo-brings-bike-building-back-home/Content?oid=8404751>
- <http://redkiteprayer.com/2017/05/big-stones-little-rocks/>

Bentonville Police to use **ebikes**:

- <http://5newsonline.com/2017/08/24/bentonville-police-bike-team-start-using-e-bikes-to-patrol-trails/>

Outerbike, a national bicycle demo event, is to be held in **Bentonville** next fall:

- <http://www.bicycleretailer.com/north-america/2017/09/19/outerbike-plans-bentonville-arkansas-event-2018#.Wgoz7nbatpg>
- <https://www.pinkbike.com/news/outerbike-adds-bentonville-arkansas-to-moab-and-crested-butte-events.html>

Arkansas Times **highlights bicycle trails**:

- <https://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/9-essential-arkansas-bike-rides/Content?oid=4660345>

Explore Arkansas highlights the **Bayou Bartholomew Water Trail**:

- <http://katv.com/news/local/explore-arkansas-the-water-trail-on-bayou-bartholomew>

The latest issue of **Bike Arkansas**:

- https://issuu.com/arkansastimesvisitorsguide/docs/ar_wild_bike_fall_2017_digital_edit

Here are a couple of write-ups about the **Arkansas Trails Council Awards**:

- <http://www.boonevilledemocrat.com/news/20170728/ouachita-national-forest-employee-volunteer-receive-arkansas-trails-council-awards>
- <http://www.island63.com/dispatch/index.cfm?id=352>

This summer, **cycling** was highlighted in displays at the **Arkansas State Capitol**. Here is a video of it in case you missed the exhibit:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX91u2q3iSE&feature=youtu.be>

A man spots **alligator** on the **Bona Dea walking trail** in Russellville:

- <http://www.thv11.com/news/local/ark-man-gets-up-close-and-personal-with-alligator-on-walking-trail/428499675>
- <http://5newsonline.com/2017/04/04/russellville-man-spots-gator-on-walking-trail/>
- <http://www.arkansasmatters.com/news/local-news/giant-gator-spotted-in-russellville/687719433>

Russellville will be hosting the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance 2017 National Wilderness Workshop on October 3-5 at Arkansas Tech.

- Here is a link to their webpage with information about it:
<http://www.wildernessalliance.org/>
- Here is a link to a video made from last year's National Wilderness Workshop:
<http://www.wildernessalliance.org/>

Other Trail News:

United States **commuting statistics**:

- <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/walk-to-work-popularity-data-for-american-cities.html>

Here's an article about **constructing** the next big **long-distance hiking trail**:

- <https://www.outsideonline.com/2193306/what-does-it-take-build-wilderness-hiking-trail>

Speaking of long distance adventures, here is a site that highlights a long-distance mountain bike route in the Appalachians, consisting of roads and singletrack trails, called the **Southern Highlands Traverse**:

- <http://www.bikepacking.com/plog/southern-highlands-traverse/>

Here is site just about **Bikepacking routes**:

- <http://www.bikepacking.com/bikepacking-routes/>

An **equestrian (cowboy)** lassos a **bicycle thief** in a **Walmart parking lot**:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsq_jZiB1_U

This article highlights how developed **bike networks** influence **safety** and **ridership**:

- <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2017/05/31/landmark-study-tests-a-bike-networks-effects-on-safety-and-ridership/>

Montreal elected their first woman as **mayor**. She was considered a long shot and ran on a **platform** that focused on **better transit** and **safer bicycling**:

- <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2017/11/09/in-montreal-an-electrifying-win-for-a-long-shot-who-campaigned-on-better-transit-and-cycling/>

A radio article about Germany's development of a **Bicycle Autobahn**:

- <https://www.npr.org/2017/07/03/535325263/in-some-places-germanys-bike-autobahn-is-faster-than-the-car-version>

Colombia has become a leader for cycling in the Americas. Here is an article that talks about the legislative effort there to make **bicycling a primary source of transportation**. Part of the law that deals with encouragement, gives employees extra time off for bicycling to work.

- <https://www.bikelaw.com/2017/09/colombias-visionary-bicycle-legislation/>

Here's an article about the opening of the **world's longest suspension bridge**:

- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/07/30/worlds-longest-pedestrian-suspension-bridge-opens-switzerland/524017001/>

Thanks,

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