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**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Announces \$85,000 in Available Funding for Trail Projects in 2016**  
*Fall 2015 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund Winners Announced*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is pleased to announce the opening of the 2016 grant process for submissions to the Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund, which will award \$85,000 per year over five years to organizations and local communities working to improve and connect trails across the country.

The grant program, which was established by funding from Jeff Doppelt of Great Neck, New York, a long-time support of RTC and rail-trails, and which is supported by additional funds from an anonymous donor, will provide competitive-based grant support between 2015 and 2019 to qualifying projects in two categories:

- **Community Support:** Three to four grants in the \$5,000 – \$10,000 range will be awarded to local nonprofit organizations or “Friends of the Trail” groups that need critical funding to help get trail development efforts off the ground. Total annual support: \$30,000.
- **Project Transformation:** One to two grants in the \$15,000 – \$50,000 range will provide critical support to an organization (or organizations) completing a significant trail development or improvement project. Total annual support: not to exceed \$50,000.

Eligible applicants include trail managers, trail advocates, community-based groups, nonprofits and public agencies. Applications will be accepted until 11 p.m. (EST) on Jan. 31, 2016.

As part of the first funding round in 2015, RTC recently awarded a total of \$20,000 to three trail projects in West Virginia and Pennsylvania:

- \$11,000 to Harrison County Commission, Clarksburg, West Virginia, for trail maintenance and major improvements to reopen the 12-mile Harrison County North Rail Trail;
- \$8,000 to the Redbank Valley Trails Association, New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for trail construction and limestone surfacing for 1 mile of the Redbank Valley Trail; and
- \$1,000 to the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for capacity building and planning.

This funding will help to advance the work of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition, which is developing a 1,400-mile network of off-road, non-motorized trails in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and New York.

For more information regarding requirements and eligibility for the Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund, and to submit an application for 2016 funding, visit [railstotrails.org/our-work/doppelt-family-trail-development-fund/](http://railstotrails.org/our-work/doppelt-family-trail-development-fund/).

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*Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a nonprofit organization with more than 100,000 members, 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 and connecting corridors. Founded in 1986, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's national office is located in Washington, D.C., with regional offices in California, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. For more information visit **[www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)**.*