

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

APRIL 23, 2014

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**VIRGINIA CREEPER RECEIVES NATIONAL RAIL-TRAIL HONOR**

*Hall of Fame induction recognizes value of rail-trail to local communities, economy.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is very pleased to announce that the Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail is to be inducted into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The Virginia Creeper is one of the region's most prominent recreational draws, in addition to being a much loved place of relaxation, respite and activity for residents of local communities.

RTC began formally recognizing exemplary rail-trails around the country in 2007. The first Rail-Trail Hall of Fame inductees were the Great Allegheny Passage (Pa./M.D.), the Katy Trail State Park (Mo.) and the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail (Fla.). The most recent addition was the Greenbrier River Trail in West Virginia. The Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail will be the 27th inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Deservedly, the Virginia Creeper finds itself in good company. It offers scenic wonders from dense forests, open fields and lush waterways to railroad relics and delightful small towns. Cyclists and equestrians love the length of the rail-trail, and many local walkers and joggers take advantage of the pleasant opportunity for a little exercise. It has also been the centerpiece of a rejuvenated outdoor recreation economy in the region.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Rail-Trail Hall of Fame inductees are selected on merits such as scenic value, high use, trail and trailside amenities, historical significance,

excellence in management and maintenance of facility, community connections and geographic distribution. The Virginia Creeper is a model in each of these areas.

Hall of Fame rail-trails are awarded special signage along the trail, are featured as a Trail of the Month on Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's website, and are highlighted in *Rails to Trails* magazine. The trail and the surrounding region will also be promoted during 2014 to Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 160,000 members and supporters across America.

For more information, contact Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Vice President, Trail Development, Liz Thornstensen, 202.974.5144, or [liz@railstotrails.org](mailto:liz@railstotrails.org).

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*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 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).*