



Trail Time

Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc.

KY RT Statistics
Trails with RT sections: 23
Miles of Rail Trails: 36
Longest contiguous section of RT:
Muhlenberg RT, 6 miles

Vol. 10, no. 4 December 2007

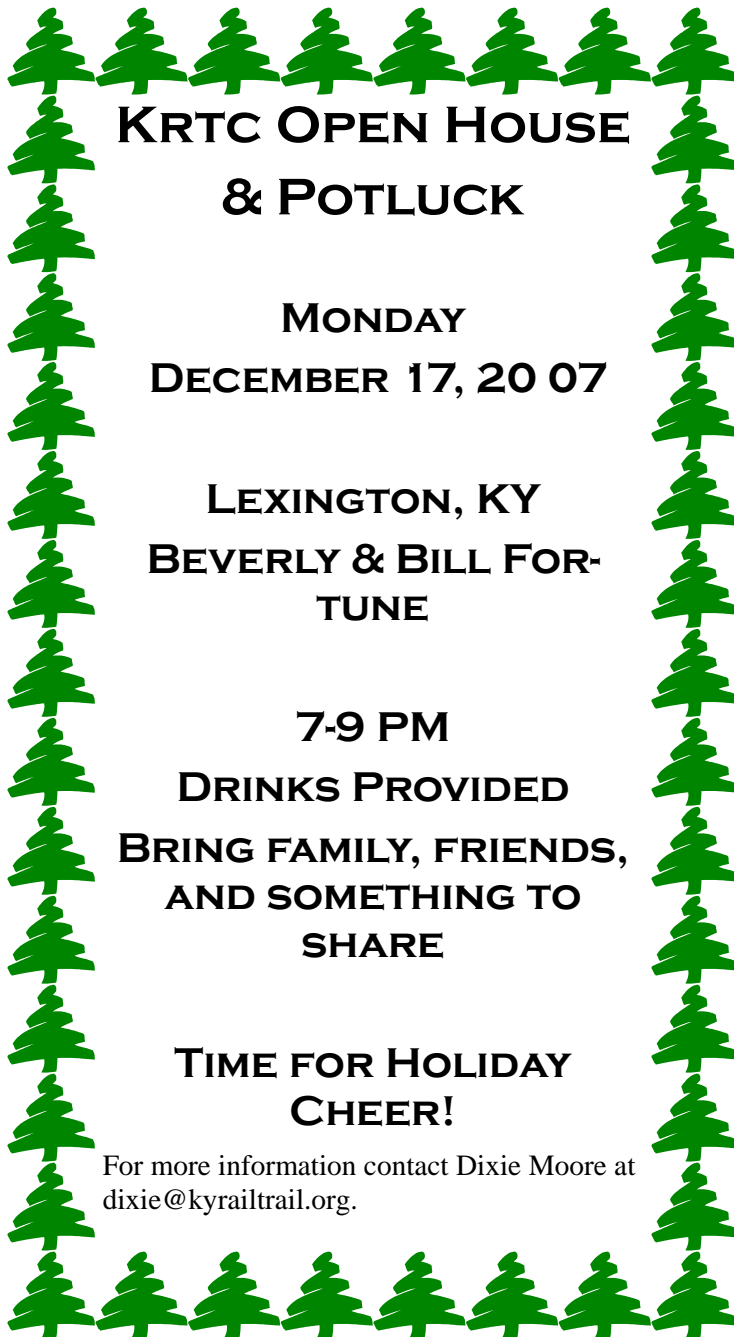
Apply for Grants for your Rail Trail Project!!

Railtrails and other multiuse trails are built primarily with funding from various state and federal grants. These grants are usually administered through the Governor's Office for Local Development and several deadlines are approaching. To submit an application a government entity, usually a city or a county has to sponsor a project. Local groups, cities and counties need to start planning now in order to be prepared to submit grant applications. If your local community has a potential rail trail project you need to contact your local officials and work with the local Area Development Districts which are an excellent source of information and support. A list of the ADDs can be found on the website for the KY Council of ADD's: <http://www.kycadd.org>.

Transportation Enhancement Intent to Apply applications will be accepted between December 1, 2007 and January 31, 2008 through Kentucky's Dept. of Transportation, <http://tea21.ky.gov/>. The Office of Special Programs oversees the Transportation Enhancement Program, the Safe Routes to School Program and the Scenic Byways Program. For questions regarding the TE program please contact Shane Tucker at shane.tucker@ky.gov.

The Recreational Trails Program applications are available December 1, 2007 with a deadline to submit an application by February 1, 2008. In Fiscal Year 2005 only one RT project was submitted to the Recreational Trails Program. In Fiscal Year 2006 there were no applications. In 2007 the City of Olive Hill received a RTP grant. All Rail Trail Projects that have applied for RTP funding in the last three years have been awarded. The maximum amount to request is \$100,000, which requires a 50% local match.

Jodie McDonald, State Rail Trail Coordinator of the Governor's Office for Local Development has indicated she would like to see more rail trail applications and has asked KRTC to encourage more applications. The application is at <http://www.gold.ky.gov/downloads.htm>. Non-profits with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply for RTP. This could be an enticement for local governments to work with the nonprofits when the local government does not have the funds but may own the property. In-Kind match may also be used. Also administered through the Office



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For more information contact Dixie Moore at dixie@kyrailtrail.org.

for Local Development is the Land and Water Conservation Fund; their application deadline is March 1, 2008.

For more information contact: Jodie McDonald, Governor's Office for Local Development, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 340, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Phone Number 800-346-5606, Fax Number 502-573-1519. Jodie.mcdonald@ky.gov.

Kentucky Railtrails in 2007

Kentucky has 36 miles of railtrails with the longest RT section/trail still in Muhlenberg Co. This trail is 6 miles long and opened in 2003. There are 23 other trails within the state of various lengths with many having plans to expand. There are at least 16 rail trail proposed projects that are in stages of design or construction. In addition to railtrails there are multi use trails that are not on rail corridors. Louisville, Owensboro, Bowling Green and Lexington are developing shared use trail networks. Louisville has constructed 35 miles of trails that includes the River-Walk/Levee Trail. Owensboro in its Atkinson Green Belt has constructed 8 miles of a planned 15 mile loop. More information, details and contact information about these trails are posted on the KRTC website. The completed short trails and sections are at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/forum/viewtopic.php?p=255#255>. The list of proposed RT projects are at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=236>.

Benham RT in Harlan County. Trail is over a former CSX corridor, is 2 to 3 miles and is owned by the City of Benham. It was opened in 2004 and is used daily by walkers. The surface is gravel and has concrete barriers to keep off ATV's. Plans are to extend it to Cumberland and toward Lynch; parts of the extended ROW owned by a coal company and multiple owners.

Berheim Forest Hike and Bike Pike, in Bullitt County. Trail is 3.2 miles and is a rail with trail. It starts at Rt. 245 across from the Clermont Post Office and runs along Long Lick Creek and the railway. The ROW is owned by R. J. Corman. My Old Kentucky Home Dinner Train uses the track for a 37 mile round trip from Bardstown. The surface is asphalt and gravel with several short steep hills.

Blackford Pedestrian Bridge in Crittenden and Webster counties opened in 2005. It uses an abandoned Western KY railroad bridge over the Tradewater River. Surface is asphalt and is used by pedestrians. Recently 4.5 acres were donated for a parking lot and trail head. Has a pavilion and a Walk of Honor honoring Veterans.

Brighton East Rail Trail in Fayette County. Starts at Bryant Road and ends at Pleasant Ridge Drive. First one mile paved section opened in April 2007; plans for extension. Lexington's first rail trail. Part of the proposed Lexington Big Sandy Rail Trail over the old CSX roadbed between Ashland and Lexington. Right of way had reverted back to adjacent landowners.

Cadiz Rail Trail in Trigg County. A 1.5 mile paved trail that begins at the site of the original railroad depot at KY-139N.

Cathy Crocket Trail in Pulaski & McCreary counties. Two miles of 8.5 miles were completed in 2000 however it has minimal upkeep and limited access. The surface is

David Kjelby's Years of Service

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council gratefully acknowl-

edges and appreciates the many years of service by David Kjelby as our Treasurer. He took over the position of Treasurer in 1998 and with a two year hiatus has been our Treasurer until last month. He has been on numerous KRTC committees and was the chairman for the KRTC conference in Northern Kentucky in 2000. He worked on getting our first display board and helped in writing some of the initial grants for Blue-



grass Rails to Trails. He is one of the main reasons why KRTC has been able to function as efficiently as it does with an all volunteer staff. If any one had a question about a past expenses or donations, David had the answer and a "paper trail" to back it up. David is a resident of Lexington and a realtor with Rector Hayden. Prior to that he worked with IBM in information technology. He has two children and is a long time member of the Bluegrass Runners.

KRTC continues to look forward to working with David in different capacities within KRTC. Thanks again to David for his hard work and dedication as Treasurer.

* * * * *

gravel. Starts at Sloans Valley, about 2 miles south of Burnside and ends north of Camp Greenwood in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The nonprofit Lake Cumberland Trail Foundation is owner of the established two miles. The southern 6 mile section is undeveloped and is the property of the Forestry Service, Daniel Boone National Forest, and is not currently open or maintained.

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge Rail Trail in Marshall County. One mile gravel walking trail within refuge near Benton, KY. Used for environmental education.

Clear Creek Rail Trail in Bell County. Trail consists of 1.4 miles with a crushed stone surface that starts at Asher Clear Creek Rd and ends at Hwy 190. Owned by

(Continued on page 4)

Last Call to Support KRTC in 2007

Without the continued financial support from our members our volunteers would not have the resources to do the many tasks of advocacy and education that is the hallmark of KRTC. Please give for the first time or keep on giving because the work is always there. We can do more with more. An envelope is attached for your convenience. If you are receiving this newsletter without being a current member that means that 1) you have signed in on a mailing list at a KRTC booth at a fair or conference, 2) you had an active membership in prior years or 3) someone has asked that your name be added to our mailing list because of your interest in multiuse trails and railtrails. Members who have paid their 2007 dues or who have given contributions since the last newsletter are listed below.

Several of our members have used their employer's matching gift program; this is great!! These programs usually double the contribution. If your work place has this option please check it out.

You can give a membership in KRTC as a holiday gift that benefits many. The recipient will receive the newsletters in 2008. A hand written note will be sent acknowledging the gift. To give a membership as a gift contact the Secretary, Dixie Moore at dixie@kyrailtrail.org or 859-227-6165.



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Tyrone Bridge RT Project

The Lawrenceburg City Council and Anderson County Fiscal Court recently passed a joint resolution to file an application with the Surface Transportation Board for an extension of the rail bank request of the 2.8 miles of Norfolk Southern Rail line in Anderson County. The corridor goes from Lawrenceburg to the Wild Turkey Distillery and includes Young's High Bridge. This action relieves the Kentucky Rail Trail Council of the responsibility to continue to rail bank the line. This resolution indicates that both parties offer their support through the Surface Transportation Board application while development options are explored. More work is needed but this is a step in the right direction. K. Lovan

Railbanking

Railbanking (as defined by the National Trails System Act, 16 USC 1247(d)) is a voluntary agreement between a railroad company and a trail agency to use an out-of-service rail corridor as a trail until some railroad might need the corridor again for rail service. Because a railbanked corridor is not considered abandoned, it can be sold, leased or donated to a trail manager without reverting to adjacent landowners.

Railbanking is done through Kentucky's Transportation Board for 6 months segments; if done by a governmental agency it is a zero expense; the cost to KRTC as a nonprofit is \$350 per six month period. KRTC has railbanked the 2.8 miles of Norfolk Southern Rail line in Anderson County six consecutive times for three years.



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Kentucky Horse Council

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the Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

Horse Fork Trail in Daviess County is a paved 2.5 mile trail completed between Higdon Road and Brookhill Subdivision (Yewell-Heritage Park). An additional 4.5 miles is planned. Part of the Atkinson Greenbelt Park around Owensboro.

Louisville Riverwalk/Ohio River Levee Trail in Jefferson County. Paved trail starts at the downtown Belvedere river wharf and ends at Farnsley/Moorman Landing; some sections not completed. First section opened in 1990's. Approximately 0.4 mile on abandoned rail corridor and an approximately 0.5 mile rail with trail. See <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/BikeLouisville/IWantTo/existingbikelanes.htm>.

Lynch Trail in Harlan County. Half mile gravel trail over a CSX ROW owned by the City of Lynch. Starts near Church St. close to Gap Branch in Lynch and adjacent to Highway 160.

Mammoth Cave Hike & Bike Trail in Barren & Edmonson Counties. 5 mile gravel trail starts at Park City and ends in Mammoth Cave National Park; 3 miles on the old Mammoth Cave RR corridor. Opened September 2005. When completed segments will follow the old Mammoth Cave Railroad track from I-65 at Park City, KY to the Mammoth Cave Hotel, approximately 10 miles.

Marion Rail Trail in Crittenden County is one mile long and in a city park. The ROW belonged to Western KY RR. The abandonment was 22 miles in length between Marion and Fredonia however due to lack of community support there is no interest in lengthening the trail.

Muhlenberg County Rail Trail in Muhlenberg County is over a Paducah and Louisville ROW between Central City and Greenville. Trail is paved, 6 miles long and opened in 2003. There is a possible extension into McLean Co.

Purple People Bridge Rail Trail (aka Newport-Southbank Bridge) is in Campbell County and crosses the Ohio River between Pete Rose Way in Cincinnati, OH and the Levee Commercial Center & Aquarium at Third and Saratoga Sts. in Newport, KY. The concrete ½ mile bridge owned by the City of Newport reopened as a rail trail bridge in 2003. Originally was the Newport and Cincinnati Bridge Co. It is a double bridge with a rail span. Will connect proposed Ohio River Trail in Cincinnati and proposed trails in KY.

Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail (multiple uses). A section in McCreary County KY has 3.6 miles over the Barren Fork Camp spur near Whitley City in McCreary Co. along Railroad Fork and Barren Fork. It is in Section 30 of the Trace and allows horses.

Stanford Depot and Rail Trail in Lincoln County. The asphalt trail is two city blocks long in downtown Stanford and includes a historic restored L & N Depot.

Sturgis Rail Trail in Union County near the Sturgis Elementary School. This is a one mile paved trail opened in the early 2000's that provides safe access for the children.

Town Branch Trail in Fayette County. A 2.0 mile section of rail with trail from Leestown Road to Chestnut Ridge Drive is complete. Another 0.5 miles to be constructed in 2008. Future extension to downtown Lexington is proposed for this project.

Uniontown Rail Trail in Union County. 1825 ft.

Van Lear RT in Johnson County. A less than one mile trail that is in Rucker Park in Van Lear. Owned by the Van

(Continued on page 5)



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(Continued from page 4)

Lear Historical Society and goes over an old C & O corridor.

White Plains RT in Hopkins County. 1.5 mil paved trail.

Wingo Trail in Graves Co. 1.2 mile paved trail over an old Illinois Central ROW. It has a caboose, gazebo, pavilion and benches. Farmers have reclaimed the rest of the 18 mile corridor; no future plans to expand it.

Kentucky Trail Projects without a completed section

Tyrone Rail Trail in Anderson County. The 2.8 mile corridor in Anderson County owned by Norfolk Southern goes from Lawrenceburg near the glass recycling plant to the Wild Turkey Distillery near Tyrone on the Kentucky River and US 127 and includes Young's Bridge which crosses the Kentucky River to Woodford county. The county line is on the Anderson shore of the Kentucky River; Woodford County includes the bridge and the river. The ROW has been railbanked by KRTC since 2005 in 6 month increments. The unique and historic Bennett H. Young Bridge would be the tallest rail trail bridge in the nation. The Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company is a non-profit organization with the primary interest being the development and preservation of Young's High Bridge and its rail corridor. The bridge and corridor is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The corridor continues into Versailles which is control by the Bluegrass Railroad Museum which conducts an excursion train throughout the year.

The Dawkins Line aka The Big Lovely RT in Breathitt, Magoffin and Johnson Counties. The 36 mile ROW owned by R.J. Corman starts in Evanston in Breathitt County and ends at West Van Lear in Johnson County. The line has been railbanked by the Big Sandy ADD since 2005. A feasibility study has been completed and public meetings held in the fall of 2007 in Paintsville and Salyersville.

Carter County Rail Trail in Olive Hill in Carter County. 600 ft. of trail that is close to the C&O ROW and near the restored depot. The City was unable to acquire the rail corridor. To be opened March 2008; horses allowed.

Winchester Rail Trail in Clark County. First section will be 1.5 miles over the old CSX corridor starting in Winchester and ending at KY 15. Part of the Lexington Big Sandy proposed 109 mile RT from Lexington to Ashland.

South Elkhorn Trail in Fayette County. Proposed 1.0 miles of paved rail with trail from Shillito Park to

the Waveland State Historic Site adjacent to Norfolk Southern RR.

Middle Creek National Battlefield RT in Floyd County. A nine mile trail that would start at McNalley and end at David over an CSX corridor that is currently railbanked. CSX continues to request 6 month extensions on the Middle Creek Line since 2004.

Louisville Big Four Bridge in Jefferson Co. over the Ohio River between Louisville and Jeffersonville, IN. The main bridge span is 547 ft. Currently owned by the Louisville Waterfront Development Corp. and in the past by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway, aka Big Four Railroad and Penn Central.

High Bridge-Wilmore Rail-Trail in Jessamine County. A 4.5 mile project from the Wilmore caboose museum on Main St. in Wilmore, KY to the High Bridge park on KY 29 south of Wilmore. Formerly owned by Norfolk Southern RR and now has various owners. Scenic ROW that overlooks the Kentucky River and goes through a tunnel. No recent action.

Mt. Sterling RT in Montgomery County; 1 mile within the city limits is the initial section. There is 15 miles along the old CSX ROW in the county. Part of the proposed Lexington Big Sandy RT.

Oldham County Interurban Greenway in Oldham County. Starts at LaGrange, along KY 146 and goes through Buckner, Crestwood & ends at Pewee Valley. 500 yards completed along with restorations to the historic depot in LaGrange. Its proposed location is in the right of way (as much as possible) of the old rail line that once connected Louisville and Oldham County.

Lexington Big-Sandy RT in Rowan County. Approximately 12 miles between the Bath Co./Rowan County line near US 60 and the Carter Co./Rowan Co. line over the old CSX line. 8 miles on the ROW.

Rodburn Trail in Rowan County. A 3 mile stretch over the old Ison-Rodburn Railway that starts near Rodburn Rd/US 60 and ends at the Sheltoewe Trace.

North Fork Trail in Rowan County. Starts at the Triplet Creek crossing to the bottom of the hill on KY 519; approximately 4 miles with two miles on the old North Fork Railway corridor.

Richmond Rail Trail in Madison County. 15 miles over the abandoned Riney B ROW between Richmond and Valley View Ferry.

Boatland Park Spur in Warren County. 0.75 mile over the abandoned Portage Railroad Spur. Part of a 30-year, 350-mile Greenbelt Master Plan for Bowling Green and Warren



Public Meetings on the Dawkins Line

The Big Sandy Area Development District held public meetings on the proposed RT in Johnson, Magoffin and Breathitt Counties on November 14th and 15th at the Recreation Center in Paintsville and at the Lloyd M. Hall Community Center in Salyersville respectively. The meetings were to provide information and receive public input on the proposed rail trail project tentatively called the "Big Lovely Trail Project." Sandy Runyon, Denise Thomas, Regina Hall, Jeff Sizemore and Melanie Stevens alternated running the meetings and presenting information.

Several RT supporters from the cycling, hiking and horseback riding community attended the meetings. Special thanks to the area's horseback riders who attended; Randy Adams, Edith Conyers and Tom Marshall. Other railtrail supporters who attended were Cynthia Cole from Pikeville and Martin Douthitt from Jackson. Phyllis Hasbrouck, Ben Woodard, Dixie Moore, Keith Lovan and Ginny Grulke, the Director of the Kentucky Horse Council, drove up to the meetings from central Kentucky.

can be obtained from the Big Sandy ADD and in the near future will be posted on the KRTC website.



(Salyersville Meeting, 11/15/2007, D. Moore)

* * * * *

VISION 2015 in Northern Kentucky

With no abandoned rail rights of way to use and a generally hilly topography, Northern Kentuckians will have to work hard to establish a network of trails in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties. But there's strong support for trails in the community, and an ambitious plan is picking up steam.

Vision 2015 -- a group that represents most of the community's non-profit, governmental, educational and business organizations -- conducted a large-scale community visioning exercise two years ago. More and better parks and trails emerged as one of the region's top needs.

The regional parks task force of Vision 2015 has as a key project a greenway and braided trail system along five miles of the Licking River in the most urban part of the community. Phase two of the project will extend the greenway deep into the community's more rural areas. The greenway will tie into a greenway along the south bank of the Ohio River that already is in progress.

The regional task force is gathering resources and coordinating stakeholders with an eye to creating a regional master plan for parks, greenways and trails. Mike Phillips, park projects coordinator for Vision 2015, says the plan will be watershed-based, and riparian greenway corridors will offer the opportunity to develop 100-200 miles of trails. For more information, contact Phillips at 859-486-3936 or at mike.phillips@fuse.net.



(Paintsville Meeting, 11/14/2007, D. Moore)

The 36 mile ROW owned by R.J. Corman starts at Evanston in Breathitt County, runs south of Salyersville in Magoffin County and ends at West Van Lear in Johnson County near Paintsville. The line is railbanked by the Big Sandy ADD. The ballast is intact and the right of way is wide enough in most places so it could support the third thread or grassy path for horses. More information about the trail project can be found in the January and April 2005 newsletters, vol. 8, no 1 & 2 on the KRTC website, www.kyrailtrail.org. The feasibility study for the project

Brighton East RT wins environmental award

The Lexington Fayette County Environmental Commission recently announced that the Brighton East Rail Trail Project was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for the construction of the Brighton East Rail Trail. The Environmental Commission is composed of a group of citizens from Fayette County who work to maintain and enhance distinctive, picturesque environment of Lexington and Fayette County. The Commission initiates and participates in environmental education, awareness and stewardship programs, including presenting annual awards to individuals, organizations or companies for outstanding environmental stewardship.

The trail is the first rail trail project in the county and contributes to the improvement of the local environment in a variety of ways. Recreational users such as walkers, joggers, bicyclists and roller-bladers can enjoy the outdoors in a non threatening way. The trail is located on an abandoned railroad bed and is a reuse of abandoned land and has provided protection of natural resources, including native vegetation and habitat. Overall air pollution decreases with an increase in alternative modes of transportation such as pedestrian and bicycle use. K. Lovan

(Picture to the right is the Brighton East RT, summer 2007, Keith Lovan)

KRTC at the Kentucky League of Cities

Mark Yanik presented an educational poster on railtrails and other types of multi-use trails at the “cracker barrel” session at the KY League of Cities convention held in Covington in October. The Convention has a strong educational component for newly elected and current city officials from across the state. At least fifty participants signed up for the KRTC newsletter.

Thank you Mark; this is the type of volunteerism that makes KRTC successful.



Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2007/2008

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The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is always in need of volunteers, e.g. writing newsletter articles,

being an officer or board member, fundraising, giving presentations, contacting landowners, checking maps, web site design, letter stuffing. *I would like to volunteer with KRTC.*

Corporate sponsorships are available: See <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/sponsors.php>

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Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3)
non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995.

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council promotes and advocates for the establishment and use of rail trails and associated greenways in Kentucky.

Contributions and dues are tax deductible
to the fullest extent of the law.

Newspaper Editor, Dixie Moore
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