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The Graber Pond Accessible Trail in Wisconsin Wins Coalition for Recreational Trails Award in the Accessibility Enhancement Category

Washington, D.C. – Ten trail projects and a State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee have been chosen by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) as recipients of its **Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards** in recognition of their outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. These national awards, which honor Tom Petri, a former Member of Congress from Wisconsin and longtime champion of the RTP, will be presented at a special Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 8, 2016 as part of the celebration of **Great Outdoors Month®**.

The Graber Pond Accessible Trail is a 0.35-mile ADA accessible, multi-use recreation trail in the City of Middleton, Wisconsin. The trail connects the north and south ends of the trail through a wetland adjacent to Graber Pond via an 850-foot, ADA approved, steel-framed, wood-decked boardwalk.

The Graber Pond Accessible Trail includes an ADA accessible kayak/canoe port and fishing pier -- where users of all abilities can fish and launch watercraft -- the first of its kind in the state. The EZ Dock Launch uses an adjustable bench and guide rails to accommodate users of all abilities. Rollers along the kayak/canoe port allow the use of guide rails, allowing users to maneuver with their upper body as they enter and exit the pond. Because the dock is floating, the water level relative to the pier remains unchanged, and, because the dock only requires just over an inch of depth to float, ice cover will not damage the structure during the winter.

The Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). See the RTP website for more information (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks. A database of the more than 20,000 projects funded by the RTP since its inception in 1991 can be found at www.recreationaltrailsinfo.org



COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS

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