



## City of River Falls News Release

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### **For Immediate Release:**

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### **RIVER FALLS AWARDED NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GRANT FOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**

River Falls, WI – The National Park Service recently awarded a \$207,500 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to the City of River Falls to develop a paved walking/biking trail, called the Lake George Trail, along the Kinnickinnic River Pathway. The trail will link the City's trail system from Lake George to Division Street.

The trail is part of a long-term regional trail planning effort, which is included in the Mississippi River Regional Plan, the West Central Wisconsin Regional Plan, and the City's Comprehensive Plan.

"The award of this grant can be attributed to the recognition that this is an important link in the long-term development of a regional trail system as well as the continuing efforts of the City to develop its trail system," said River Falls City Planner Tony Steiner.

The federal grant was matched with \$31,300 in funds from the Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and \$239,000 from the City for a project total of \$478,000.

The trail will be a 1,500-foot continuation of the 10-foot wide, hard-surface path and will include lighting, trail amenities – benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping where appropriate. Construction will begin in April 2017 and be completed by October 2017.

The City will work with key community partners on trail development, including the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau and its members, local service clubs, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, and Trout Unlimited.

"This project is an integral part of the City's continuing and collaborative efforts to promote River Falls as a regional destination for tourism and economic activity," said Steiner.

The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program provides matching grants for local and state park projects outside national park boundaries. These grants help build and protect a "seamless system of parks from backyard to backcountry." Since 1965, the National Park Service has provided more than 40,000 LWCF grants to states and local communities.

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