

Funding Awarded To Garrett County Rec Trail Projects

The State Highway Administration (SHA) last Thursday announced \$1.4 million in grants to fund 54 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects across the state. The 2015 grant recipients include Garrett and five other counties, five municipalities, and 13 non-profit organizations. Work includes constructing new trails, maintaining existing trails, purchasing equipment, and signage.

Locally, Garrett County Community Action will receive \$32,833 for the 2015 Garrett County Seasonal Trail Crew.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources was also awarded funding for the following projects/sites: St. John's Rock/Red Dog Road off-road vehicle (ORV) trail monitoring and maintenance, \$25,000; Snaggy Mountain ORV trail resurfacing and erosion control, \$30,000; Savage River State Forest, \$30,000; a mini excavator for use on trails in Savage River, Potomac State, and Garrett State forests, \$29,250; Meadow Mountain Trail Overlook, \$3,350;

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Continued from Page A-1 and trail shelter repairs in Potomac and Garrett state forests, \$9,150.

Statewide, the RTP provided grants, ranging from \$1,200 to \$40,000 on a reimbursement basis, for numerous transportation trail and recreational trail uses, including bicycling, pedestrian (hiking, running, wheelchair use), in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheel driving.

"Transportation is about more than highways, planes, trains, and buses," said SHA administrator Melinda B. Peters. "These grants provide

opportunities for travel that support healthy lifestyles, reduce impacts on the environment and give us an up-close look at the beauty of our state."

The RTP focuses trail investments on missing links in the statewide trail network and helps enhance existing state investment areas, including designated Scenic Byways, Heritage Areas and/or Main Streets.

SHA partners with DNR, other state agencies and trail user groups to solicit and select projects that enhance economic development, transportation, environment, and public health. More information about the Recreational Trails Program is available at roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=98.

The Maryland Department of Transportation adopted an updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan in January 2014. The plan establishes a 20-year vision to support cycling and walking as modes of transportation in Maryland. Details are available at mdot.maryland.gov/BikeWalkPlan.

For more information on Cycle Maryland efforts and great bicycling resources, persons can visit www.cycle.maryland.gov, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cyclemaryland>, and on Twitter @CycleMaryland.