

## Paving the Way – From Blazing Trails to Community Grant Recipients

Trail Towns Grants (\$25,000 each)	
Grantee	Project Summary
<b>City of Lindsborg</b> Välkommen Trail Improvements and Trail Programming	Combines improvements along the Välkommen Trail and programming that combines assets of the Välkommen Trail and recently completed Meadowlark Trail.
<b>Abilene Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b> Official Iron Horse Trail Town	Abilene's Convention & Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad and the Community Foundation of Dickinson County, plans to construct permanent restroom facilities along the five-mile Iron Horse Trail that connects Abilene and Enterprise.
<b>City of Andover</b> Redbud Trail in Andover	Funding to enhance and promote a six-mile section of the Redbud Trail, which connects the Wichita metro area through Andover extending into rural Butler County. This grant also will support a trail-themed community event hosted in collaboration with the City of Augusta and the Andover Augusta Rail Trail Initiative (AARTI).
<b>City of Augusta</b> Redbud Trail Gateway Activation Initiative	Supports promotional materials related to a trail event between the communities of Augusta and Andover, general trail promotion and community engagement meetings, and sub-micro grants for businesses to add amenities to make their businesses more attractive to trail users.
<b>Central Kansas Conservancy</b> McPherson Kansas Trail Town Certification	Supports installation of wayfinding signs at the McPherson and Lindsborg trailheads of the Meadowlark Trail to direct trail users to local businesses and amenities.
<b>Thrive Allen County</b> The “King of Trails” Integration Initiative	Project will bridge the gap between the Southwind Rail Trail, the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail and the Lehigh Portland trails and the local economy by transforming lola into an official Certified Trail Town. Funds will support revitalizing the Friends of the lola Trails, create signage to guide visitors from

	<p>trailheads to lola’s historic downtown retail district, the hiring of a part-time volunteer coordinator, and the launch of a program to train local retailers and restaurants to cater to the specific needs of long-distance cyclists and day-hikers.</p>
<p><b>Marshall County Connections, Inc.</b> Trail Towns Program</p>	<p>The City of Marysville seeks to strengthen its identity as a welcoming, bicycle-friendly community and to build on the momentum of the Blue River Rail Trail. The proposal focuses on enhancing trail amenities, improving wayfinding, strengthening downtown connections, and advancing long-term corridor planning to ensure safe, connected access for trail users.</p>
<p><b>Trail Stewards Grants (\$10,000 each)</b></p>	
<p><b>Andover Augusta Rail Trail Initiative, Inc.</b> The Redbud Trail: Connecting All of Us</p>	<p>Strengthen stewardship, sustainability, and long-term success of the Redbud Trail, a nearly 20-mile corridor connecting Andover, Augusta, and Butler County. The organization aims to organize a community ride from Point Nine Trailside Eatery in Andover to historic downtown Augusta to build momentum for completing the remaining four miles of trail, while also addressing challenges such as volunteer recruitment, event logistics, donor development, financial sustainability, and long-term maintenance planning.</p>
<p><b>Wabaunsee County</b> Guard of the Plains Trail</p>	<p>Wabaunsee County plans to restore and strengthen the existing trail by clearing encroachment along the trail corridor, restoring the trail surface, installing wayfinding signage and trail markers, and developing a trailhead kiosk to orient visitors and share the natural and cultural significance of the site.</p>
<p><b>Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy</b> Osage Cuestas Trail Bridge Project</p>	<p>The Osage Cuestas Trail is a 20-mile, rail-banked corridor being developed in Wilson and Neosho counties. Construction of the trail began in Fredonia, and 7 miles are nearing completion in Wilson County. The trail will continue another 13 miles north</p>

	and east toward Chanute. Funds will support repair work on a 150-foot section of bridge on the trail.
<b>Rossville Community Foundation</b> Building Pathways, Strengthening Community: Rossville’s Trail Expansion Initiative	Funding supports creation of a long-term vision for expanding Rossville’s trail network to provide a more connected, walkable community where every resident has access to safe, inviting spaces for movement and well-being.
<b>Smith County Memorial Hospital</b> Smith County Trail Enhancements	The hospital aims to strengthen the long-term stewardship, safety, and usability of the trail system that runs through its outdoor wellness hub by adding durable amenities, including ADA-accessible picnic tables, wayfinding signage, and solar lighting. Improvements will support daily physical activity, post-therapy rehabilitation, and community engagement while ensuring the trail remains safe and navigable.
<b>Community Foundation of Dickinson County</b> More Millings, Please	The community foundation, in partnership with Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad, local tourism, and local trail stakeholders, plan to improve the safety, usability, and longevity of the Iron Horse Trail through the addition of limestone screenings (millings) along priority segments of the trail.
<b>City of Ottawa</b> Ottawa Trail Visibility & Navigation Initiative	The city will install enhanced directional signage, create a high-quality promotional trail video, and expand digital trail navigation resources. Improvements will provide clear, welcoming guidance from trailheads into downtown Ottawa, highlighting key destinations such as parks, restaurants, lodging, and cultural assets, and strengthen Ottawa’s identity as a trail-friendly community.
<b>City of Garnett</b> Prairie Spirit Rail Trail	The City of Garnett will use funding to resurface the stretch of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail that runs through the heart of the community, increasing safety, usability and accessibility.

<p><b>City of Fredonia</b> Enhancing the Osage Cuestas Trail</p>	<p>The city plans to use technical assistance from the Paving the Way Learning Series to identify a solution and connect with relevant state agencies to apply for future funding for the development of a physical trail crossing over U.S. 400. The city also plans construction of a repair station and wayfinding kiosk at the trailhead, as well as creation of a cohesive branding package that highlights Fredonia’s history and the natural geological features along the trail.</p>
<p><b>City of Basehor</b> Basehor Trail Enhancement</p>	<p>The City of Basehor plans to engage its residents to determine the best way to enhance recently constructed trails that connect the city’s three parks by adding trail amenities to increase safety, usability and accessibility.</p>
<p><b>Barber County United, Inc.</b> Peace Treat Trails: Enhanced Trail Experience Initiative</p>	<p>Support dedicated trail stewardship stipends for key project leaders, digital infrastructure integration, interpretive content development, and participation in the Trail Stewards learning series. Through this investment, BCU will formalize a sustainable stewardship model that enhances trail accessibility, interpretation, volunteer engagement, and long-term maintenance planning.</p>
<p><b>Friends of Lawrence Area Trails</b> Looped Together: Lawrence Trails Experience</p>	<p>Friends of Lawrence Area Trails, Free State Brewery, and the City of Lawrence plan to expand and enhance its Trails that Connect Us event and engage residents in the creation of a community mural that celebrates Lawrence trails.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trail Blazers Grants (\$10,000 each)</b></p>	
<p><b>City of Wamego</b> Miller Nature Park Pathway Planning</p>	<p>Support the planning and designing of a nature trail within Miller Nature Park. The proposed trail is a natural extension of ongoing investments in walkability and public spaces.</p>
<p><b>Mark Arts, Wichita</b> Rock the Corner</p>	<p>The Corner at Mark Arts has a vision to transform its 17-acre outdoor property into a gathering place that is open to all. The enhanced outdoor space will include</p>

	nearly a mile of walking paths and other features that encourage socializing and congregating, with seating nooks and play areas for families and an outdoor culinary prep space and community table for intimate gatherings.
<b>Mission Trail Funds, Brown County</b> Mission Trails Phase One	Mission Trails is a volunteer-led trail initiative in Brown County, representing the community's first formal effort to plan and develop a coordinated public trail system near and around the Mission Lake. The lake is a valued recreation area in northeast Kansas with potential to attract regional trail users from neighboring states while prioritizing local residents, families, and walkers.
<b>Prairie Museum of Art &amp; History, Colby</b> Prairie Preserve Trail at the Prairie Museum	Funding goes toward work on a walking and educational trail to be established in the prairie preserve on the south side of the museum. This trail would be open to the public 24/7 and would be used in the museum's educational programming.
<b>Lakemary Center, Paola</b> Community ADA Trail Upgrade and Path Expansion	This initiative will enhance a planned trail route into a smooth, ADA-accessible walking path for Lakemary Center residents, staff and the surrounding community. Open to the public on Lakemary property, the trail will be a place for all and an accessible setting for walking clubs, casual gatherings, and everyday connection among seniors, families, and individuals with disabilities.
<b>Quindaro Ruins Project Foundation, Kansas City, Kan.</b> Quindaro Ruins Trail Access	Elevate the impact and diversify the supporters of the trails at the Quindaro Townsite Ruins. Funding will be used for a new volunteer coordinator. This work is part of a larger effort to celebrate the history of Quindaro and Western University by restoring the 80-acre site to its native ecosystem, supporting existing trails, adding signage, and stabilizing the remaining foundations.