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June 2011 Edition

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Summer is here and we hope your greenways, trails and parks are packed with people enjoying nature and getting active! This month's issue is filled with grant announcements, legislative updates, opportunities to be recognized on a national level and more. We hope this newsletter continues to provide information that assists you in planning, programming, and promoting greenways and trails.

Information provided in this newsletter is taken from other sources and the Greenways and Trails Program strongly recommends that you go to those resources directly for the complete information about an activity or event. If you have ideas or suggestions to improve this newsletter, we welcome your input.

**Note:** You will need to refresh your browser for the latest information on the web links provided.

**Happy Trails!**

*Recreation Educational Services - Greenways & Trails Program*



#### TENNESSEE NAMED "BRONZE LEVEL BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE"

The [League of American Bicyclists](#) has named Tennessee a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly State in its fourth annual BFS rankings. Congratulations go out to the TDOT - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program for its efforts and accomplishments to make this award possible!

To see the official press release, click [here](#).

#### 2011 Tennessee State Legislative Session Update

**Several bills were passed by the State Legislature that will have significant impact, here are a few highlights:**



### SHARE THE ROAD

First is the new legislation that increased protection for bicyclists and pedestrians riding or walking on Tennessee state roads. Click [here](#) for the details of this bill. This new law broadens the requirements that drivers exercise due care concerning bicyclists and pedestrians. It creates a Class B or Class A misdemeanor, depending on whether the accident results in serious bodily injury or death of another person, when the person causes an accident by failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, fails to exercise due care, or fails to pass a bicycle safely.

### COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH

Second is the full funding for the Coordinated School Health (CSH) Program in the Tennessee Department of Education. This program provides each county in the state with a CSH Director who works with the local Boards of Education to improve the health of children in our state. Go to: <http://www.tn.gov/education/schoolhealth> for more information.

### JOINT USE AGREEMENTS

Legislation was passed which encourages schools to open up their facilities like gymnasiums and tracks to the community as sources of physical activity. This new law clarifies that liability rests with the user, not the school system, if the school chooses to open up their facilities after normal school hours to a community partner. For the Bill Summary, click [here](#).

In July, we will be providing more legislative updates from the recent session...



### BECOME A DESIGNATED "NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL"!

The [National Trail System Act](#) of 1968 (Public Law 90-543) authorized creation of a national trail system comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. While National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails may only be designated by an act of Congress, National Recreation Trails may be [designated](#) by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance in response to an application from the trail's managing agency or organization. Through designation, these trails are recognized as part of America's national system of trails.

The National Recreation Trails Program supports designated NRT's with an array of [benefits](#), including promotion, technical assistance, networking and access to funding. Its goal is to promote the use and care of existing trails and stimulate the development of new trails to create a national network of trails and realize the vision of "Trails for All Americans."

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations go to **Warriors Path State Park** for being designated as the newest National Recreation Trail in Tennessee. They were the only application submitted from Tennessee for the 2011 cycle.

Applications for the 2012 NRT are available now and the deadline is November, 2011. For more information about the NRT program or to request a letter of support, contact Robert Richards at 615-532-0753 or [Robert.richards@tn.gov](mailto:Robert.richards@tn.gov).



## GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

The Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the **2011 Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP)**.

These are 100% grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 for the purpose of increasing domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities such as Farmer's Markets. Application deadline is July 1, 2011.

For more information, click [here](#).

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### Other Power Driven Motor Devices (OPDMD's):

On March 15, 2011, new Department of Justice rules took effect, specifying the "**other power-driven mobility devices**" (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by "individuals with mobility disabilities." If you manage a trail that is open to the public this rule applies to your facility.

Click [here](#) for basic facts and other information about "**other power-driven mobility devices**" (OPDMD).

Click [here](#) for examples provided by local and state governments of policies and assessments for use of "Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices" on trails, bike paths, greenways, and pedestrian facilities.



## GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for **Federal Transportation Enhancement Program**. This grant can be applied to build sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails and to renovate historic train depots and other transportation related structures.

2012 Application Deadline: November 1, 2011

For more information, click [here](#).

## HELPFUL LINKS:

**Tennessee Greenways and Trails** [www.connectwithtn.com](http://www.connectwithtn.com)

There are 749+ greenways and trails in Tennessee that are listed on this website. To find a trail, go to the map of Tennessee, click on the region and then click on the name of the county. Scroll down and you will find the list of trails for that county. If you know of a trail that is not on the website, please pass that information on to Bob Richards at [Robert.richards@tn.gov](mailto:Robert.richards@tn.gov) or call 615-532-0753. If

you have trail news (new trail opening) or an event that needs to be listed, please pass the information on to Bob. Thanks for helping make this website the best it can be.

**Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association (TRPA):** <http://www.trpa.net>

This website has a listing of ALL park areas in Tennessee - local, state and federal. Find the park nearest your home or work and increase your activity levels and improve your health.

**TVA Recreation Lands Map:** <http://recreation.tva.com>.

Locating the more than 1,000 recreation areas on Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs is now easier with the launch of a new website that allows visitors to find recreation areas by reservoirs or name. Website users can easily search for marinas, parks, boat ramps and campgrounds at this online resource.

**Safe Routes to Schools National Partnership:** <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/>

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is a network of more than 400 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) movement in the United States. Current priority is to continue funding through the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. To join with the Tennessee program, go to: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/state>

**Eat Well, Play More TN:** <http://www.eatwellplaymoretn.org/>

"Eat Well, Play More Tennessee" is Tennessee's statewide nutrition and physical activity plan to reduce obesity and chronic disease in Tennessee by 2015. It is their vision to create an environment in which every Tennessean has the ability to make healthy lifestyle choices regarding nutrition and physical activity.

#### EVENTS:

Please send your EVENT information to Bob Richards as soon as you are aware of the date for inclusion in the Greenways and Trails TIDBITS newsletter. It will be included in the TIDBITS as space permits. This newsletter is produced bi-monthly, or when there is enough information to distribute.

#### **2011 Calendar of Greenways and Trails Events**

**August 6-7, 2011: Cherokee Days of Recognition - Red Clay State Park**  
<http://tn.gov/environment/parks/RedClay/index.shtml>

**September 24, 2011: Public Lands Day** <http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

**November 1, 2011 Applications for National Recreation Trails due**  
<http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails>

**November 1, 2011 Grant Applications for Tennessee Transportation Enhancements due.**

#### **ABOUT RECREATION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES...**

**The Division of Recreation Educational Services' mission is to create and protect parks and open spaces that provide recreation opportunities and conservation education. It is composed of three sections:**

Technical Assistance, Funding and Planning Resources - Recreation Grant programs are administered under this section which includes Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Land Water and Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF). This section also includes the Parks and Recreation Technical Advisory Service (PARTAS) that provides technical and educational assistance to communities concerning parks and recreation services and development.

Land Management and GIS Resources provides important assistance in the acquisition and conservation of land for TDEC. This section oversees the State Lands Acquisition Fund and

coordinates GIS services as they relate to land acquisition for the department.

Greenways and Trails Resources provide assistance in trail design, trail sustainability, and planning to communities and trail organizations across the state.

If we can be of further assistance, please call us at 615-532-0748 or email: [tdec.res@tn.gov](mailto:tdec.res@tn.gov).

Sincerely,

TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation - Recreation Educational Services



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327157. March 2011.

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