

The Northeast Texas Trail Coalition is excited to announce that Texas Parks and Wildlife recently approved six different grants totaling \$1,174,400 for various Northeast Texas Trail projects! It's important to note that these funds are National Recreational Trails Fund dollars that fund recreational trail construction, renovation and acquisition. These are federal dollars that are generated from a portion of the federal tax on gasoline. Of these funds, 30% are for motorized recreational trails, 30% for non-motorized and 40% is marked as discretionary. In essence, these are dollars that we, as Texans, send to Washington coming back home to projects here in Northeast Texas.

Here's a rundown of the grants received by various NETT members.

In Hunt County, the Chaparral Rails to Trails received a \$200,000 grant towards the Northeast Texas Trail-Wolfe City section. That project includes a new 1.06 mile rails to trails conversion including clearing, grading, embankment work, asphalt overlay, safety bollards and road crossings.

The NETT Coalition in Lamar County received a \$200,000 grant for the Clarksville to Hwy 82 section. This will include a new 1.9 mile rails to trails conversion including clearing, grading, substantial bridge repairs to 2 bridges, bridge railings, safety bollards and road crossings.

The city of Annona in Red River County received a \$200,000 grant for the NETT-Annona section. Improvements will begin with an at grade crossing at Hwy 82 being installed by TXDOT. This work will be contributed by TXDOT as an in-kind match. The construction will progress approximately 3.8 miles east to CR 4305. That work will include clearing, grading, improving crossing safety, signage, etc.

The city of Avery in Red River County received \$174,400 for the Northeast Texas Trail- Avery section. This project will include a new 4.01 mile rails to trails conversion from CR 4315 east to the Red River/Bowie County line including clearing, grading, repair of one bridge, crossing safety improvements, signage, safety bollards, etc.

The City of Clarksville in Red River County received a \$200,000 grant

toward the NETT's Clarksville section. This project includes a new 5.8 mile rails to trails conversion, bridge repair and signage.

Red River County was the recipient of a \$200,000 grant for approximately 3.6 miles of improvements beginning at CR 4305 and heading east to CR 4315. That work will include clearing, grading, repairs of 3 bridges, railings, safety bollards, signage and road crossings.

It's important to note that these funds are a result of match money raised largely within and by the trail towns and communities in which these trail improvements are being made. Those fundraising efforts resulted in the NETT receiving a 4 to 1 match on those local dollars for these TPWD Recreational Trail Grants. And that enabled us to get these trail improvements accomplished far more efficiently than we could have done otherwise.

We sincerely appreciate and thank our local NETT donors, and of course Texas Parks and Wildlife, all of whom are working hard to complete the Northeast Texas Trail.

And even more exciting is that when this work is complete, the eastern portion of the Northeast Texas Trail will boast of approximately 70 miles of cleared and graded trail from the City of Roxton to the Red River/Bowie county line. We're excited about that and looking to begin fundraising for our North Texas Giving Day campaign coming in September. All funds raised from that campaign will be used exclusively for improvements and repairs on the western portions of the NETT. I hope you'll get involved!

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