

Release date: Dec 15, 2020

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### **River Region Trails receives grant, moving the project one step closer to reality**

**Montgomery, AL** – A community grant valued at \$11,000 was awarded to River Region Trails by [MillionMile Greenway](#) (MMG), an Atlanta-based nonprofit that helps grassroots organizations build trails and protect green spaces. The grant combines a cash award and in-kind services from MMG’s experts in marketing and project planning.

“This effort has every essential element we look for in a transformative project,” says Jim Langford, president of MillionMile Greenway. “River Region Trails is a dedicated and smart group that wants to see great things happen in Montgomery, a city with substantial natural and historic resources. Multi-use trails in Montgomery can help the city accomplish many specific things.”

According to Will O’Connor, River Region Trails’ executive director, the future paved trails will provide easy walking and biking access while converting old railroad corridors and new routes into a connected system.

“Region River Trails wants to help Montgomery revitalize neighborhoods, enhance economic development and tourism, and improve the lives of our residents,” O’Connor explains. “The grant from MillionMile Greenway is an endorsement of our vision and an investment in our future. And MMG is contributing time and resources to help us accomplish specific tasks.”

In addition to creating walking and biking access in and around Montgomery, the paved trails will ultimately link to the 260-acre Cypress Nature Park on the edge of downtown. A push from the Montgomery community to develop the park into a natural and environmental education center has existed for years, and River Regions Trails hopes that utilizing it in this way will re-energize that goal.

Ultimately, the paved trails will form a loop around Montgomery, and will connect to downtown via the 260-acre Cypress Nature Park. River Region Trails hopes that the path system will

eventually total roughly 30 miles and link destinations in downtown Montgomery to each other and to places beyond the city and its suburbs.

River Region Trails is excited to take the next step in developing a greenway network for the City of Montgomery by signing a contract for master planning services with ALTA Planning and Design. River Region Trails, Inc. and its partners have a vision for a regional trail network that would connect residents and visitors of Montgomery. ALTA will begin the planning process on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

[MillionMile Greenway](#) helps communities create or expand trail and greenway initiatives by providing micro-grants and technical and marketing assistance. In addition to the proposed greenways in Montgomery, MillionMile Greenway has assisted with projects such as the BeltLine in Atlanta, the Coastal Georgia Greenway, the Northend Greenway in Virginia and many others.

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